PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 535 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
7 November 2011—15 November 2011

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON—THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED

£105
(Two parts not sold separately)

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Commons 2012
This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Parliamentary Click-Use Licence,
available online through The National Archives website at
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/our-services/parliamentary-licence-information.htm
Enquiries to The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU;
e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

ISBN 9780215563798

Printed in the UK by The Stationery Office

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

(Formed by the Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP, May 2010)

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service—The Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of the Council—The Rt Hon. Nick Clegg, MP
First Secretary of State and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—The Rt Hon. William Hague, MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer—The Rt Hon. George Osborne, MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice—The Rt Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP
Secretary of State for Defence—The Rt Hon. Philip Hammond, MP
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills—The Rt Hon. Vince Cable, MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions—The Rt Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, MP
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change—The Rt Hon. Chris Huhne, MP
Secretary of State for Health—The Rt Hon. Andrew Lansley, CBE, MP
Secretary of State for Education—The Rt Hon. Michael Gove, MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government—The Rt Hon. Eric Pickles, MP
Secretary of State for Transport—The Rt Hon. Justine Greening, MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—The Rt Hon. Caroline Spelman, MP
Secretary of State for International Development—The Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell, MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland—The Rt Hon. Owen Paterson, MP
Secretary of State for Scotland—The Rt Hon. Michael Moore, MP
Secretary of State for Wales—The Rt Hon. Cheryl Gillan, MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport—The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt Hon. Danny Alexander, MP
Leader of the House of Lords and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—The Rt Hon. Lord Strathclyde
Minister without Portfolio—The Rt Hon. Baroness Warsi

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

Business, Innovation and Skills—

Secretary of State and President of the Board of Trade—The Rt Hon. Vince Cable, MP

Ministers of State—
The Rt Hon. David Willetts, MP (Minister for Universities and Science)
John Hayes, MP (Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning) §
Mark Prisk, MP
The Rt Hon. Greg Clark, MP §
Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (Minister for Trade and Investment)

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
Edward Davey, MP
Edward Vaizey, MP §
Baroness Wilcox

Cabinet Office—

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General—The Rt Hon. Francis Maude, MP

Minister of State—The Rt Hon. Oliver Letwin, MP

Parliamentary Secretaries—
Mark Harper, MP
Nick Hurd, MP

Communities and Local Government—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Eric Pickles, MP

Ministers of State—
The Rt Hon. Greg Clark, MP
The Rt Hon. Grant Shapps, MP (Minister for Housing and Local Government)

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
Andrew Stunell, OBE, MP
Robert Neill, MP
Baroness Hanham, CBE

Culture, Media and Sport—

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CULTURE, OLYMPICS, MEDIA AND SPORT—The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
  John Penrose, MP
  Hugh Robertson, MP (Minister for Sport and the Olympics)
  Edward Vaizey, MP §

Defence—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Liam Fox, MP
MINISTER OF STATE—Nick Harvey, MP (Minister for the Armed Forces)
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
  Gerald Howarth, MP
  The Rt Hon. Andrew Robathan, MP
  Peter Luff, MP
  Lord Astor of Hever, DL

Duchy of Lancaster—

LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER—The Rt Hon. Lord Strathclyde

Education—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Michael Gove, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
  Sarah Teather, MP
  Nick Gibb, MP
  John Hayes, MP (Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning) §
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
  Tim Loughton, MP
  Lord Hill of Oareford

Energy and Climate Change—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Chris Huhne, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
  Charles Hendry, MP
  Gregory Barker, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—Lord Marland

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Caroline Spelman, MP
MINISTER OF STATE— The Rt Hon. James Paice, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
  Richard Benyon, MP
  Lord Henley

Foreign and Commonwealth Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. William Hague, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
  Jeremy Browne, MP
  The Rt Hon. David Lidington, MP (Minister for Europe)
  The Rt Hon. Lord Howell of Guildford
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
  Henry Bellingham, MP
  Alistair Burt, MP

Government Equalities Office—

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITIES—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP §
MINISTER FOR EQUALITIES—Lynne Featherstone, MP §

Health—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Andrew Lansley, CBE, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
  Paul Burstow, MP
  The Rt Hon Simon Burns, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
  Anne Milton, MP
  Earl Howe

Home Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITIES—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP §
MINISTERS OF STATE—
  Damian Green, MP (Minister for Immigration)
  The Rt Hon. Nick Herbert, MP (Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice) §
  Lord Henley (Minister for Crime Prevention and Antisocial Behaviour Reduction)
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
  Lynne Featherstone, MP (Minister for Equalities) §
  James Brokenshire, MP

International Development—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell, MP

Minister of State—The Rt Hon. Alan Duncan, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—Stephen O'Brien, MP

Justice—

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP

Ministers of State—
The Rt Hon. Lord McNally
The Rt Hon. Nick Herbert, MP (Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice) §

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
Crispin Blunt, MP
Jonathan Djanogly, MP

Law Officers—

Attorney-General—The Rt Hon. Dominic Grieve, QC, MP

Solicitor-General—Edward Garnier, QC, MP

Advocate-General for Scotland—The Rt Hon. Lord Wallace of Tankerness, QC

Leader of the House of Commons—

Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal—The Rt Hon. Sir George Young, MP

Parliamentary Secretary—David Heath, CBE, MP

Northern Ireland—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Owen Paterson, MP

Minister of State— The Rt Hon. Hugo Swire, MP

Privy Council Office—

Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of the Council—The Rt Hon. Nick Clegg, MP

Scotland Office—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Michael Moore, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. David Mundell, MP

Transport—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Justine Greening, MP

Minister of State—The Rt Hon. Theresa Villiers, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
Norman Baker, MP
Mike Penning, MP

Treasury—

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service—The Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer—The Rt Hon. George Osborne, MP

Chief Secretary—The Rt Hon. Danny Alexander, MP

Financial Secretary—Mark Hoban, MP

Exchequer Secretary—David Gauke, MP

Economic Secretary—Chloe Smith, MP

Commercial Secretary—Lord Sassoon

Parliamentary Secretary—The Rt Hon. Patrick McLoughlin, MP

Lords Commissioners—
Michael Fabricant, MP
Angela Watkinson, MP
Jeremy Wright, MP
Brooks Newmark, MP
James Duddridge, MP

Assistant Whips—
Philip Dunne, MP
Stephen Crabb, MP
Robert Goodwill, MP
Shailesh Vara, MP
Bill Wiggin, MP
Chloe Smith, MP
Norman Lamb, MP
Greg Hands, MP

Wales Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Cheryl Gillan, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—David Jones, MP

Work and Pensions—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
    The Rt Hon. Chris Grayling, MP
    Steve Webb, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Maria Miller, MP
    Lord Freud

Her Majesty's Household—

LORD CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt Hon. Earl Peel, GCVO, DL

LORD STEWARD—The Earl of Dalhousie

MASTER OF THE HORSE—Lord Vestey, KCVO

TREASURER—The Rt Hon. John Randall, MP

COMPTROLLER—The Rt Hon. Alistair Carmichael, MP

VICE-CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt Hon. Mark Francois, MP

CAPTAIN OF THE HONOURABLE CORPS OF GENTLEMEN-AT-ARMS—The Rt Hon. Baroness Anelay of St Johns, DBE

CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD—The Rt Hon. Lord Shutt of Greetland, OBE

BARONESSES IN WAITING—Baroness Garden of Frognal, Baroness Northover, Baroness Rawlings, Baroness Verma

LORDS IN WAITING—Earl Attlee, Lord De Mauley, TD, Lord Taylor of Holbeach, CBE, Lord Wallace of Saltaire

§ *Members of the Government listed under more than one Department*

SECOND CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING CHURCH COMMISSIONERS—Tony Baldry, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Speaker—The Rt Hon. John Bercow, MP

Chairman of Ways and Means—Lindsay Hoyle, MP
First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Nigel Evans, MP
Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—The Rt Hon. Dawn Primarolo, MP

Panel of Chairs
Mr David Amess, MP, Hugh Bayley, MP, Mr Joe Benton, MP, Mr Clive Betts, MP, Mr Peter Bone, MP, Mr Graham Brady, MP, Annette Brooke, MP, Martin Caton, MP, Mr Christopher Chope, MP, Katy Clark, MP, Mr David Crausby, MP, Philip Davies, MP, Jim Dobbin, MP, Nadine Dorries, MP, Mr Roger Gale, MP, Mr James Gray, MP, Mr Mike Hancock, MP, Mr Dai Havard, MP, Mr Philip Hollobone, MP, Mr Jim Hood, MP, The Rt Hon. George Howarth, MP, Mr Edward Leigh, MP, Dr William McCrea, MP, Miss Anne McIntosh, MP, Mrs Anne Main, MP, Sir Alan Meale, MP, Sandra Osborne, MP, Albert Owen, MP, Mrs Linda Riordan, MP, John Robertson, MP, Andrew Rosindell, MP, Mr Lee Scott, MP, Jim Sheridan, MP, Mr Gary Streeter, MP, Mr Andrew Turner, MP, Mr Charles Walker, MP, Mr Mike Weir, MP, Hywel Williams, MP

Secretary—Simon Patrick

House of Commons Commission
The Rt Hon. The Speaker (Chairman), Sir Paul Beresford, MP, Mr Frank Doran, MP, The Rt Hon. Angela Eagle, MP, John Thurso, MP, The Rt Hon. Sir George Young, MP

Secretary of the Commission—Dorian Gerhold
Assistant Secretary—Joanna Dodd

Administration Estimate Audit Committee
Alex Jablonowski (Chairman), The Rt Hon. Angela Eagle, MP, The Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP, John Thurso, MP, Stephen Brooker, Mark Clarke

Secretary of the Audit Committee—Gosia McBride

Management Board
Robert Rogers (Clerk of the House and Chief Executive), David Natzler (Clerk Assistant and Director General, Chamber and Committee Services), John Pullinger (Director General, Information Services), Andrew Walker (Director General, HR and Change), John Borley, CB (Director General, Facilities), Myfanwy Barrett (Director of Finance), Joan Miller (Director of Parliamentary ICT) (External Member), Alex Jablonowski (External Member)

Secretary of the Management Board—Matthew Hamlyn

Speaker's Secretary—Peter Barratt
Speaker's Counsel—Michael Carpenter
Speaker's Chaplain—Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—John Lyon, CB
Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

7 November 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 7 November 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy and Company Winding Up

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): We are today launching a consultation about bankruptcy and company winding up.

The consultation document sets out detailed proposals to reform the application process for bankruptcy and compulsory winding up by replacing the current court route with a new administrative process. Uncontested applications would be determined by an adjudicator and the court would only be involved at the application stage to the extent that there is a dispute that can only be resolved by judicial intervention. I am placing copies of the consultation document in the Libraries of both Houses.

We propose allowing electronic applications to be made to an adjudicator, who will be a person appointed for that purpose by the Secretary of State and whose office would be within the Insolvency Service. Debtors who want to apply for bankruptcy for themselves would have the choice of submitting electronic or paper applications, and the option of making the requisite payment to enter the process by instalments. Where creditors are looking to instigate proceedings, a new mandatory pre-action process would incentivise debtors and creditors to communicate with each other and thereby reach a mutually satisfactory solution to the debt problem without recourse to a bankruptcy or winding-up application. This reflects our desire that people are empowered to make the right decisions for themselves about their finances, as set out in the Government response to the call for evidence about personal insolvency.

Litigation can be costly and time consuming. This new process should therefore deliver a more efficient service as well as saving valuable public and private resources. In order to ensure that the interests of both debtors and creditors are protected, the court would still have an important role. Not only would it decide the outcome of disputes, but certain petitions for the winding up of companies, such as those based on public interest grounds, would continue to be determined by the courts.

We intend actively to engage with interested parties throughout the consultation period, and welcome views on whether the proposals will deliver a workable and efficient application process for bankruptcy and most compulsory windings up. The consultation will close on 31 January 2012.

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 8 November 2011. The Chancellor will attend. The following items will be discussed:

Financial Transaction Taxes (FTTs)

The Commission will present its proposal on FTTs and ask for preliminary comments from member states. The tax would be levied on all transactions in financial instruments by financial institutions when at least one party to the transaction is located in the EU. Trading in shares, bonds and money market instruments would be taxed at a rate of 0.1% and derivative contracts at a rate of 0.01% on the notional value of the transaction. The Government do not support the Commission's proposal; as it stands, it would have significant negative impacts on jobs and growth. I will continue to make clear that, to avoid relocation of trading, any FTT would need to apply in all financial centres (that is, not just the EU).

Energy Taxation Directive (ETD)

Depending on progress at officials' level, Finance Ministers will hold an orientation debate on the ETD. The Commission published its proposal on this issue in April. Its stated aim is to bring EU rules on the taxation of energy products further into line with the EU's energy and climate change objectives. The proposal would require member states to tax energy products by taking into account both CO_2 emissions and energy content. The Government believe that revision of the ETD should focus on reviewing EU minimum levels of taxation, and do not support a mandatory EU-level carbon tax. In line with the principle of subsidiarity, member states should also retain the absolute right to set national duty rates on different types of energy products, as long as these are above EU-wide minimum rates of taxation. The presidency has drafted "orientations" to guide future work on the file, which are in line with the Government's priorities in this area.

Follow-up to the October European Council, 23 October

ECOFIN will discuss the outcomes of the European Council, where leaders discussed the immediate challenges posed by the financial crisis, and agreed on measures to secure sustainable and job-creating growth. They also set the EU's position for the G20 summit, giving top priority to maintaining financial stability and restoring growth, and discussed preparations for the Durban conference on climate change.

Follow-up to the G20 summit, 3-4 November in Cannes

The presidency will report on the G20 leaders' summit held in Cannes on 3-4 November. The Council will discuss the outcomes from the summit, including: the

global economy and international monetary system; financial regulation; energy commodities and agriculture; and development. The session is also expected to look ahead to the Mexican presidency of the G20 in 2012, including where additional work is required in the G20 and EU to make further progress.

Financial assistance to Greece—disbursement of next instalment

Given the current situation in Greece, it is unlikely that this will remain on the ECOFIN agenda. After the referendum announcement, euro area countries and the IMF made clear they would not disburse the next instalment of the Greek financial assistance programme, which euro area countries had informally agreed to disburse on 26 October. While the referendum now seems to be off the table, the situation in Greece is still fluid, and euro area countries might want to hold off disbursement until Greece is able to commit to the second financial assistance programme also agreed on 26 October. The UK Government will not be part of any decision on the disbursement. However, it is extremely important for the euro area to implement the comprehensive package agreed on 26 October, and that the other elements are not delayed as a consequence of the situation in Greece.

Economic governance—surveillance of macro-economic imbalances: design of the "scoreboard"

The Council will discuss draft Council conclusions on a scoreboard for assessing macro-economic imbalances. The scoreboard will be a new monitoring mechanism under the excessive imbalances procedure, and a key part of a more effective European semester. The Government support measures designed to help restore and maintain macro-economic stability in the EU.

Preparation of the 17th Conference of Parties (COP-17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban, South Africa

ECOFIN will discuss draft climate finance conclusions which endorse the EU's "fast start finance report" setting out the EU's contributions in 2011. The conclusions will also consider the report to the G20 on long-term sources of finance, which was led by the World Bank. The Government support the further development of the EU's position in advance of the UNFCCC negotiations in Durban.

Annual Meeting of EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Economy and Finance Ministers

This meeting will take place over breakfast, before the formal ECOFIN begins. It will focus on improving regulation in order to secure financial stability, where the Government's priority is to have robust, internationally consistent regulatory standards that will benefit the economy in the long run. It will also be an opportunity to exchange views on respective strategies in the current macro-economic environment in Europe, where the Government believe the priority is to achieve fiscal consolidation and lay the foundations for growth.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): On Thursday 20 October I represented the UK on agricultural issues at the first day of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. I was accompanied by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister with responsibility for agriculture and food. On Friday 21 October my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister with responsibility for natural environment and fisheries, the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) represented the United Kingdom on the fisheries items. Richard Lochhead MSP, Michelle O'Neil MLA and Alun Davies AM were also in attendance.

The main item on Thursday was a Commission presentation of the seven proposals which make up the package for reform of the common agricultural policy from 2014. Commissioner Ciolos began by stating that sustainable competitiveness, linked to food security, was at the heart of the proposals before going on to say that greater convergence of payment rates within and between member states was necessary. He stated that direct payments should be made up of basic income support (70%), with the remaining 30% available only if farmers met certain environmental or "greening" conditions. Commissioner Ciolos went on to underline his belief that the first pillar of the CAP should apply in a uniform manner across all member states, with the second pillar offering member states flexibility to respond to national priority needs.

Two full table rounds followed giving member states a first opportunity to offer views on the package. Views varied widely with no unconditional support for the package but the UK made it clear that the proposals represented a missed opportunity, doing nothing to move EU farmers towards a situation in which they could be competitive without direct payments. As tabled, the proposals risked rewarding farmers for normal good practice or, worse, preventing them from making the right decisions for sustainability.

On the detail of the proposals, some themes emerged during the two discussions. On convergence of direct payments, a number of member states had serious misgivings about redistribution of funding between member states with some expressing the view that proposals went too far while others believed it did not go far enough, while the UK, with the support of a number of other member states, repeated opposition to the capping of direct payments.

Proposals for the "greening" of pillar 1 received some support in principle, but the majority of member states questioned the rigid, one-size-fits-all system proposed which appeared to deliver more red tape than actual environmental benefit. This debate led to a discussion of the broader issue of simplification. Member states were of the view that the Commission had promised simplification, but that the package as a whole, with a multi-layered direct payment scheme consisting of various mandatory elements, would increase the burden for both farmers and national administrations.

Few member states had fundamental problems with the proposals on rural development, though all were clearly interested in the allocation criteria for pillar 2 payments for which the UK called for a faster move to objective allocation criteria.

In conclusion to the debate, Commissioner Ciolos stated that, in his view, the proposals had received broad support as the basis for future discussion but that he realised the allocation of payments would be the most contentious issue and that further work was needed. However, he rejected arguments that the package did not deliver simplification for producers and would be writing to Ministers outlining how his package delivered in this area.

Also on the agenda was a discussion of the food for deprived persons scheme. The presidency and Commission together urged the blocking minority of six member states (Germany, UK, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands and Czech Republic) to reconsider their positions and agree to the revised proposal. A number of member states, led by France, intervened to express their frustration that this dossier was being blocked. The presidency then asked members of the blocking minority to confirm that they still opposed the revised proposals. All did, and the UK commented that the revised legal base only confirmed that this was a social scheme for action at a national rather than EU level.

The final agriculture item for discussion on the substantive agenda related to the achieving of an EU common position on four draft resolutions of the International Organisation for Vine and Wine (OIV). The UK remained silent as it is not a member of the OIV and the presidency noted that there remained a blocking majority against adoption of the resolutions.

Under any other business Council heard an update from Commissioner Dalli on implementation of the laying hens directive, which comes into force on 1 January 2013. The Commission was clear that there would be no postponement of the ban on battery cages even though at least 11 member states were unlikely to have complied with the directive by the start of next year. The Commission said it would exercise powers, beginning targeted inspection visits at the start of 2013, and would begin legal proceedings against non-compliant member states. While there was an argument that non-compliant eggs should be destroyed, this would not make political or economic sense. Instead, the use of non-compliant eggs would be limited to production of egg products within the member state of origin. There was no opportunity for member states to intervene.

The second day of Council saw consideration of two fisheries agenda items. The first related to 2012 fishing opportunities in the Baltic sea. The Commission stressed the need for a cautious approach, particularly for stocks where there was no scientific advice; and the need to respect existing scientific advice and management plans where relevant. The aim should be to reach maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels for all stocks. Member states challenged the Commission's generic approach of proposing cuts of 25% or 15% for stocks for which there was insufficient advice ("data poor") and pushed back against the Commission's ambition to reach MSY sooner than the internationally agreed date of 2015, where possible. The Commission agreed to treat data-poor stocks on a case-by-case basis; an important shift for forthcoming fishing opportunities negotiations of interest to the UK and other fishing member states.

After extensive bilateral discussions and a compromise proposal from the presidency, the Commission was pressed in a final negotiating session to offer reduced decreases across most stocks.

The final fisheries item related to the EU-Norway fisheries agreement for 2012. Ministers had an exchange of views to orientate the Commission's approach to this forthcoming set of negotiations governing stocks jointly managed by the EU and Norway, and the exchange of fishing opportunities. The UK is the member state with the largest fishing interest in the agreement.

The Commission noted the importance of reaching a balanced agreement on behalf of the EU as a whole and that member states had to be realistic in what they felt should be offered to Norway to secure access to the Arctic cod allocation offered. On this issue the UK said Norway should be pressed to use external waters stocks, while other member states pressed for maximum Arctic cod uptake and stressed the importance of an EU-Faroes agreement. The UK also stressed the importance of ensuring Iceland and the Faroes behaved responsibly and reached a reasonable agreement on mackerel as well as the extension of the "catch quota" scheme which has been shown to reduce discards.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Strengthening Women's Voices in Government

The Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): The "Strengthening Women's Voices in Government" consultation exercise was undertaken between 7 March and 15 June 2011. The consultation set out proposals for a new approach to engaging and listening to women, and invited views and feedback on the proposals.

The consultation set out the principles for the new approach, which are:

> Women across the UK can be heard and are enabled to influence and shape Government policy;
>
> The new approach must be genuinely cross-Government and Departments are committed to listening to women, taking their views into account, and feeding back the results, and
>
> Women know what central Government are doing across the breadth of policies and are able to act on that knowledge.

The new approach should transform the way in which women's voices are brought to Government, delivering an engagement framework which is direct, inclusive and transparent.

A total of 1,229 responses were received, of which 1,166 were from people responding online, with the remaining 63 being submitted as a written response. An estimated 600 people attended consultative events and fed back their views about the proposals.

The consultation asked for views on the most important or challenging issues facing women in the UK today. The top priorities identified were:

> Issues relating to the workplace, and women's experience of work including promotion; better work-life balance; child care and setting up a business.
>
> Tackling violence against women and girls;
>
> A strong appetite for greater equality for women;
>
> Access to leadership positions, both in politics and business;
>
> More engagement with women, including with senior women in business/women entrepreneurs.

Moving forward, we will consider a cross-Government programme of action and encourage participation from a wide and diverse range of women and women's organisations.

A copy of the consultation response is available in the Library of the House.

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The changes in the immigration rules being laid before the House today are as a result of the Supreme Court judgment in R (on the application of Quila and another) (FC) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department and R (on the application of Bibi and another) (FC) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] UKSC45.

On 12 October 2011, the Supreme Court found that while it recognised that the Secretary of State was pursuing a legitimate and rational aim of seeking to address forced marriage, a rule (increasing the minimum marriage visa age from 18 to 21) disproportionately interfered with the article 8 rights of those who were in genuine marriages. Accordingly, the Secretary of State has decided to revert to a minimum age of 18.

The changes will take effect on 28 November and will reduce the minimum age at which a person may be granted entry clearance or leave as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a sponsor, and the minimum age at which a person may sponsor such an application, from 21 to 18 years. It will also delete references to a minimum age of 18 for entry clearance or leave as the spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner of a HM forces sponsor, and the minimum age at which a member of HM forces may sponsor such an application. Guidance for those affected by the judgment will be published on the UK Border Agency website.

There is no place in British society for the practice of forced marriage. It is a breach of human rights and a form of violence against the victims. That is why the Prime Minister has announced that the Government will criminalise the breach of Forced Marriage Civil Protection Orders and that there will be a consultation on making forcing someone to marry an offence in its own right.

We are also investigating what more we can do to identify and protect those young people who have been placed at additional risk.

TRANSPORT

Renewable Energy Directive

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): Today I am publishing our response to the comments received in the consultation on our proposals for implementing the transport aspects of the renewable energy directive (RED), confirming action we will take to implement this directive in the UK.

The RED requires the UK to source 10% of energy used in transport from renewable sources by 2020 and is closely related to the fuel quality directive (FQD) which requires fuel suppliers to land-based transport and similar applications to deliver a 6% reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from their fuels by 2020.

Our policy on biofuels is relevant to both directives. There remain a number of uncertainties regarding the sustainability of biofuels and their best use. However, I do believe that genuinely sustainable biofuels have an important role to play in our efforts to tackle climate change and in security of energy supply. This is particularly so in areas where there is no viable alternative fuel on the horizon such as for HGVs and aviation.

It is crucial that we do all we can to ensure that biofuels both deliver real greenhouse gas emission reductions and do not cause unacceptable environmental and social side effects in the process. There is much work being undertaken, nationally and internationally, to understand better the indirect effects related to biofuels and to investigate how the negative indirect effects can be reduced.

As the directives currently stand, they do not take into account these indirect effects. While the extent of these impacts remains uncertain, there is robust evidence that widespread use of some biofuels can lead to significant indirect greenhouse gas emissions through the process known as indirect land use change (ILUC). The UK takes the issue of ILUC seriously. Earlier this year we published research on the scale of ILUC impacts and we are continuing to lead work on how to tackle these as well as encouraging the European Commission to address this issue on a Europe-wide scale with a robust solution. I have written to the European Commission twice, expressing the Government's concerns regarding ILUC and pressing for robust and proportionate action to be taken to address the impacts of ILUC.

There are concerns regarding the best use and deployment of biofuels. These concerns also extend to the issue of best use of biomass across all sectors. Since our consultations on the RED and FQD opened, the Committee on Climate Change has published advice on renewable energy. The Government are now considering this advice and awaiting the Committee's further advice on the best use of bioenergy across all sectors. Further evidence will also be drawn from the results of the Department's research into the best use of biofuels across transport modes and the Department's call for evidence on the future of aviation policy: "Developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation: Scoping document".[1] In addition, the Government are working in a cross-departmental way to develop a bioenergy strategy which will look at the use of sustainable bioenergy across transport, heat and power as well as the impacts on other sectors.

The results of these reports and studies will establish a robust evidence base. When we have this evidence we will set biofuel targets beyond those set out to 2014 under the current Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO).

On the other hand, in response to those who have called for biofuel targets to be scrapped entirely, we continue to be of the view that there is a place for sustainable biofuels in our wider policy on carbon reduction. The UK must, in law, comply with the RED. Biofuels will be a key component in the achievement of these targets before that work has been completed.

We will prioritise implementation of the RED over that of the related FQD in order to ensure that financial reward is no longer given to those biofuels that do not meet the RED sustainability criteria. Most of what will be delivered through the FQD will be delivered by the closely related RED, which we expect to be implemented through an amended renewable transport fuel obligation in December 2011, subject to the parliamentary process.

Our consultations on proposals to implement the RED and FQD revealed a number of concerns regarding expansion of the RTFO to include fuels use in non-road mobile machinery (NRMM). Industry has requested additional time to prepare for this and we are considering how best to achieve this change. As such, we do not propose to bring into force any expansion of the RTFO to include NRMM fuels before April 2013.

In addition there remains uncertainty regarding key implementing measures for the FQD, which are currently being discussed at the European level.

However, we do intend to introduce new regulations to transpose the FQD requirement to reduce emissions by 6% by 2020, alongside new annual reporting requirements for fossil fuels and biofuels. We will be working towards putting the necessary legislation in place as soon as possible during the course of 2012.

The response published today sets out our decision to transpose fully all the sustainability criteria set out in the RED to ensure that the UK only rewards the supply of sustainable biofuel. Until we have a more robust evidence base, we cannot confidently set biofuel targets beyond those established under the current RTFO.

I would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to these consultations.

[1] http://www2.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2011-09/consultationdocument.pdf

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Infrastructure

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): Together with my right hon. Friends, the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, I am today announcing details about the operation of the Government's £500 million Growing Places Fund.

The fund will be available to get stalled sites for housing development moving again; provide additional funding for infrastructure projects already in the pipeline; and promote wider economic growth.

Local areas will be in the driving seat, with funding directed to local enterprise partnerships, which will bring private sector expertise to the prioritisation and delivery of significant infrastructure projects.

We are publishing a short prospectus today which sets out the key features of our approach and invites expressions of interest for funding from local enterprise partnerships. We are inviting these by 20 December, with the intention of announcing allocations in January. A copy of the prospectus will be placed in the Library of the House, and will also be available on my Department's website.

The fund will be a major boost to local areas in unlocking the potential for development and we will advise further as we take decisions on allocations.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Protection System (Administration Levies)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): The administrative resource costs of the Pensions Advisory Service and the pensions ombudsman and some of the administrative resource costs of the pensions regulator are recovered by a general levy on pension schemes. The administration costs for the Pension Protection Fund are recovered through the PPF administration levy paid by eligible schemes. The rates for both levies are set in regulations and reviewed annually.

I am pleased to announce that for 2012-13 we are proposing that the rates for both the PPF administration levy and the general levy will be reduced from the levels that have remained unchanged since 2008-9. We propose that the PPF administration levy rates will reduce by at least 25%, and the general levy rates will reduce by at least 12%.

Levy rates in-year are set to avoid frequent changes and do not directly reflect forecast future costs, but also take into account accumulated deficits or surpluses in expected levy collection.

The proposed new rates for both levies meet forecast future administration costs for the respective pensions bodies. In proposing to reduce the rates, the Government are seeking to lessen cost pressures on pension schemes. This proposed reduction will be welcomed by levy payers, as well as pension scheme trustees, members and sponsoring employers.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 8 November 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Statutory Security of Supply Report

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I have today laid before Parliament the 2011 statutory security of supply report (SSSR), which has been produced jointly with Ofgem and with input from National Grid. The report is a technical document that provides factual information to the market on security of supply. The report covers electricity, gas and oil. The latter is not a statutory requirement but is included for completeness. I have placed a copy of this report in the Libraries of both Houses.

In addition, I am also publishing today a risk assessment produced for the purpose of the EU Security of Gas Supply Regulation 994/2010. This is available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/en_security/eu_sec_reg/eu_sec_reg.aspx.

DEFENCE

Pingat Jasa Malaysia

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): Her Majesty the Queen has given her approval to a recommendation from the Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals that those entitled to accept the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) medal should now also be permitted to wear it.

The Government of Malaysia introduced the medal in 2005 and awarded it to British and Commonwealth veterans who had served in the conflict in Malaya in the late 1950s and 1960s. Approval is not normally given for foreign medals to be accepted if British recognition for the same campaign has already been presented. As an exception, veterans were originally permitted to accept but not wear the medal. This was done to recognise the generous gesture by the King and Government of Malaysia, and their wish to award the PJM in recognition of service given by many veterans in the difficult years leading up to and following Malaysian independence.

Following this change to the original decision we are taking action to ensure that as many holders of the medal as possible are aware, to enable them to wear their medal with pride at remembrance events this week.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Single Payment Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): In the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 14 July, *Official Report*, columns 40-44WS, she explained that the Rural Payments Agency business plan for 2011-12 would be updated when the agency's strategic improvement plan (SIP) was finalised. Work on constructing that plan is progressing well and the new RPA management team are already taking forward some components. However, as there may be public expenditure implications, it has been necessary to factor in additional time for scrutiny and approvals processes before the plan can be finalised. Consequently, my expectation is that the SIP will now be ready for publication in the first quarter of 2012.

In the meantime, the RPA oversight board, which I chair, has reviewed the existing indicator in the business plan for demonstrating that payments under the 2011 single payment scheme (SPS) are made in an accurate and cost-effective manner. In doing so, we have considered progress on both 2011 scheme processing and work to address legacy errors. In line with my earlier statements, the agency has been undertaking corrective action on the remaining known legacy data problems alongside the processing of 2011 SPS claims. I am pleased to say that that corrective work on the known error cases remains on track to be completed by the end of the payment window on 30 June 2012, with further analysis planned on potential cases. Outstanding top-up payments have already been completed in respect of 2010 claims and are significantly advanced in respect of long-standing requests raised by claimants relating to earlier scheme year claims.

Against that background the oversight board has agreed the following additional indicators for 2011 SPS:

by the end of December 2011 to have paid a minimum of 86% of eligible claimants and 78% of the total estimated value;

by the end of March 2012 to have paid a minimum of 95% of both the eligible claimants and the total estimated value.

These indicators reflect a change in the focus of the agency's efforts towards processing the more difficult cases at an earlier stage, which is expected to increase the value of payments made at the beginning of the payment window while maintaining performance on the numbers of claimants paid in that period. Each individual indicator betters or matches performance under any previous scheme year while both reducing, rather than adding to, legacy problems and operating with a much-reduced budget. That represents a stride forward for the agency but, as I discussed with leaders of farming representative bodies last week, there remains some distance to go before I could be happy that farmers are receiving the service they deserve. I am clear that further strides towards that goal must be made in the indicators that are set for subsequent years and that communications with farmers who are not paid early in the window must be improved now. I know the RPA chief executive has heard the clear message from farm leaders on the latter point and will ensure steps are taken to address it over the coming months.

I will continue to keep the House informed on the agency's progress.

TRANSPORT

High-speed Rail

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): As the House will know, since taking up office as Secretary of State, a key early priority for me is to make a decision on the way forward following the Government's recent consultation on high-speed rail (HS2).

My Department received around 55,000 responses to the consultation and an analysis of them has been undertaken. I am being provided with detailed information on the issues raised. This will provide me with extensive evidence in respect of all the issues that will affect my decision.

A number of colleagues have understandably requested meetings regarding HS2 and I believe it is important that that there should be an opportunity for me to hear directly from MPs on their views about HS2. Given that the consultation has closed, due process means it would not be proper for me to respond to any substantive points that are made at this meeting.

I wish to place on record that I will be providing MPs with an opportunity for such a meeting. I have scheduled this meeting for 21 November and have written to all Members to ask them if they wish to attend. The meeting will take place in the Palace of Westminster. In the interests of transparency, I will arrange for a transcript to be made available, as a public record of the proceedings.

Triennial Review of NDPBs (HS2 Ltd)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): Reducing the number and cost of public bodies is a coalition priority. The triennial review process has been established to continue our work ensuring accountability in public life by examining all non-departmental public bodies at least once every three years. I am announcing today the triennial review of HS2 Ltd. This review has two aims:

> to provide a robust challenge of the continuing need for this NDPB—both its functions and form; and,
>
> if it is agreed that it should remain as an NDPB, to review the control and governance arrangements in place to ensure that the public body is complying with recognised principles of good corporate governance.

The triennial review will build upon the internal review of the body conducted earlier this year.

I will announce the findings of the review later this year in line with the decision on the response to the consultation on high-speed rail.

If you would like further information, or to contribute to the review, please contact my Department or highspeedrail@dft.gov.uk.

I remain committed to the ongoing review of public bodies and my Department continues to work with the Cabinet Office to develop forward plans of reviews.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deportation with Assurances

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to announce that on Saturday 24 September my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, and His Excellency Taieb Fassi Fihri, Moroccan Foreign Minister, signed a memorandum of understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco concerning the provision of assurances in respect of persons subject to deportation on grounds of national security.

Copies of the memorandum of understanding have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

There are a number of outstanding elements of the arrangement which UK and Moroccan officials are continuing to negotiate, along with a number of other judicial agreements and arrangements. We will publish further details when this process is complete.

The Government are committed to strengthening our bilateral relationship with Morocco across a range of fields, including measures to combat the shared threat from terrorism.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 9 November 2011

TREASURY

VAT—Low Value Consignment Relief

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): I am today announcing further reforms to the relief from import VAT known as Low Value Consignment Relief (LVCR). These reforms will make a positive contribution to the UK economy as well as contributing towards the fairness of the tax system and reducing the deficit.

In Budget 2011, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government intended to take action to end the exploitation of LVCR, which in recent years has been used on an increasingly large scale to sell low value goods free of VAT to UK consumers, a purpose for which it was never intended. Most of this trade originates from, or is routed through, the Channel Islands.

Our objectives in reforming LVCR are twofold. First, to ensure that UK companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, can compete on a level playing field with companies with operations in the Channel Islands. Secondly, to protect tax revenue for the Exchequer while taking into account the costs of collecting small amounts of VAT.

As the first step towards reform of the way in which the UK applies the LVCR rules we legislated in Finance Act 2011 to reduce the LVCR value threshold, below which items are imported free of VAT, from £18 to £15. That change is being implemented from 1 November.

In taking that legislation through the House I made it clear that it was only the first step towards preventing the exploitation of LVCR.

I can announce today that, as from 1 April 2012, LVCR will no longer apply to goods supplied commercially, as part of a distance selling transaction, from the Channel Islands. Legislation to enact this change will be published in draft on 6 December, for inclusion in Finance Bill 2012.

This will mean that supplies from business in the Channel Islands bear the same VAT liability as supplies from VAT-registered businesses in the UK.

My decision to focus action on imports from the Channel Islands reflects:

> By far the greatest volume of all international parcel post to the UK from outside the EU is estimated to originate in the Channel Islands, and much of it appears to be linked to the exploitation of LVCR.
>
> Companies based in the Channel Islands can participate in HMRC's "Import VAT Accounting Scheme", which allows automatic collection of UK import VAT at source, thus avoiding delays at sorting offices and VAT collection surcharges. The ease of access of companies based in the Channel Islands to the UK consumer market is therefore very similar to that of domestic UK-based companies, in contrast to their non-EU counterparts.

This measure is expected to increase receipts by approximately £100 million per annum. The final costing will be subject to scrutiny by the Office for Budget Responsibility, and will be set out at the autumn statement 2011.

LVCR will continue to apply with the lower £15 threshold to commercial supplies from other non-EU jurisdictions. I have no current plans for further changes to this threshold but will be watching its operation carefully and will take further action if necessary.

The existing import reliefs for gifts (non-commercial consignments) sent from outside the EU, including from the Channel Islands, also remains unchanged.

CABINET OFFICE

Review of the Charities Act

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Nick Hurd): I am today announcing that Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts has been appointed to undertake a broad review of the legal and regulatory framework for charities. Under section 73 of the Charities Act 2006 a person must be appointed to review the operation of the Charities Act 2006 within five years of enactment. The charity law review will not only consider the operation of the Charities Act 2006, but will also consider whether further changes are needed to ensure that the legal and regulatory framework for charities is clear and effective.

The terms of reference for the review are broad. They include issues that the review must cover as set out in section 73 of the Charities Act 2006, issues that the Government believe should be addressed, and issues that the charity sector has asked to be considered. The terms of reference for the review are available on the Cabinet Office website at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk, and I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the House Library.

Lord Hodgson will set out, in due course, how charities and other stakeholders will be able to engage in the review process.

The aim is for the review to report in June 2012, and a copy of the report of the review will be laid before Parliament.

DEFENCE

Call-out Order

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): With the expiry of the call-out order made on 24 October 2010, a new call-out order has been made under section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable reservists to continue to be called out into permanent service to support our wider efforts to counter the threat from international terrorism and piracy, and to assist our maritime security objectives. The order takes effect from 8 November 2011 and ceases to have effect on 7 November 2012. Some 98 members of the reserve forces were called out under this order last year and their continued support is greatly appreciated and valued.

HEALTH

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): I regret that the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Holborn and St Pancras (Frank Dobson) on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 192W, contained some incorrect figures in the table.

The information provided in the original answer contained some unvalidated data but it has subsequently been brought to my attention that the Department holds more accurate, cleansed and validated data, which have now been provided where available. I have also taken this opportunity to provide the Connecting for Health figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 rounded to the nearest £1,000, and figures that were previously not available.

A table showing the corrected figures is given below.

Consultancy expenditure 2006-07 to 2010-11

					£000s
	2010-11	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
NHS bodies (excluding foundation trusts)[1]	291,047	455,213	419,579	308,462	n/a
Executive non-departmental public bodies, executive agencies and special health authorities [2,3 & 4]	8,828	41,732	11,324	8,183	8,437
Connecting for Health	4,975	6,259	5,102	4,551	4,825

[1] Primary care trusts (PCTs), strategic health authorities (SHAs) and NHS trusts. The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust. Data for consultancy services expenditure were collected from NHS bodies for the first time in 2007-08.

Source: NHS audited summarisation schedules.

[2] Figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 for executive non-departmental public bodies, executive agencies and special health authorities are on a different basis to those for earlier years and are therefore not directly comparable.

[3] Figures included for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) are for "Professional and administrative fees". This category includes litigation and other legal costs as well as expenditure on consultancy services, which cannot be separately identified.

[4] Figures included for the Care Quality Commission do not include external legal advice. It is not possible to identify how much of this expenditure falls within the definition of "consultancy services".

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 10 November 2011

CABINET OFFICE

Post-legislative Scrutiny of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): The Government have published today the memorandum to the Public Administration Select Committee on the post-legislative scrutiny of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/post-legislative-scrutiny-statistics-and-registration-service-act-2007-cm-8216.

Cabinet Office carried out the post-legislative scrutiny, which includes a preliminary assessment of how far the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 has worked in practice, and has set out the findings in a Command Paper (Cm 8216) to the Committee. This is in accordance with the current guidelines of carrying out post-legislative scrutiny of a Bill within three to five years of it receiving Royal Assent.

Copies of the Command Paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and also in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

DEFENCE

Project Avanti

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): On 29 June 2010, the Minister responsible for defence personnel, welfare and veterans established a project team to identify and implement the most cost-effective organisational structure for the Army's regional structure. The strategic defence and security review White Paper[1] (SDSR) directed that the four Army regional divisional headquarters would be replaced by a single support command and that at least two of the 10 regional brigade headquarters would close. This capitalised on earlier work which concluded that the rationalisation of the regional structure would principally increase effectiveness with the added benefit of saving resources.

On 18 July 2011, the then Secretary of State for Defence announced to the House— *Official Report*, columns 66-70WS—that in accordance with SDSR direction it was proposed that the Army's four regional divisional headquarters[2] would be replaced by a single support command. The new formation, commanded by a major-general, would be known as Headquarters Support Command and it would be based in Aldershot. He said that its creation would lead to the disbandment of Headquarters 2nd Division at Edinburgh, Headquarters 4th Division at Aldershot and Headquarters 5th Division at Shrewsbury in 2012. Savings at the regional brigade level would be made through structural changes to each of the 10 regional brigade headquarters and to HQ London District, together with their supporting structures rather than by closing individual brigade headquarters.

Today I am announcing that consultation on those proposals has concluded and I have endorsed the approval given by the Army investment board to implement the restructuring of the Army's regional structure. Formal consultation will now commence with the trade unions on the implementation and we plan to begin to stand up the new support command headquarters at the beginning of January 2012 when we shall disband HQ 4th Division. The headquarters of 2nd and 5th Divisions will disband by the beginning of April 2012 although tasks will continue to be carried out in Edinburgh and Shrewsbury until the end of August 2012 when we expect HQ Support Command to achieve full operating capability. The 10 regional brigade headquarters and HQ London District will also move towards their new structures from January 2012 and we expect the new structures in these organisations to be achieved by 31 March 2013.

I have written to colleagues who have the headquarters of the regional divisions or brigades within their constituencies and the adjutant-general has written to other key external stakeholders to apprise them of these developments. The project team will continue to engage with all other interested parties, especially those personnel who are affected by these changes.

---

[1] Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The Strategic Defence and Security Review—Cm 7948 dated 19 October 2010.

[2] In addition to HQ 2nd Division in Edinburgh, HQ 4th Division in Aldershot and HQ 5th Division in Shrewsbury, the 4th regional division is HQ UKSC in Germany. The drawdown of HQ UKSC is being addressed under the Borona programme.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Witten Ministerial Statement (Correction)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): On 7 November I made a written ministerial statement summarising discussions at the October Agriculture and Fisheries Council—*Official Report*, columns 3-5WS. In the paragraph relating to the AoB item on implementation of the laying hens directive I referred to implementation beginning in 2013. This paragraph should have read:

> Under any other business Council heard an update from Commissioner Dalli on implementation of the laying hens directive, which comes into force on 1 January 2012. The Commission was clear that there would be no postponement of the ban on battery cages even though at least 11 member states were unlikely to have complied with the directive by the start of next year. The Commission said it would exercise powers, beginning targeted inspection visits at the start of 2012, and would begin legal proceedings against non-compliant member states. While there was an argument that non-compliant eggs should be destroyed, this would not make political or economic sense. Instead, the use of non-compliant eggs would be limited to production of egg products within the member state of origin. There was no opportunity for member states to intervene.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council (in both foreign affairs and development formats) and General Affairs Council will meet in Brussels on 14-15 November. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council. My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for International Development will attend the development Foreign Affairs Council.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

EU-Russia

The pre-FAC dinner on 13 November will discuss EU-Russia, although we also expect this to cover Georgia, Ukraine and Belarus. This will be a good opportunity to explore with partners medium-term prospects for the EU-Russia relationship. We will use the opportunity to set out what we want to achieve at the EU-Russia summit on 15 December: progress on the Transnistria conflict, reduction of trade barriers and progress on a new EU-Russia agreement.

Afghanistan

We are working to secure a strong and enduring EU commitment to Afghanistan which will reassure the Afghans that 2014 will not mark the end of international support. Ahead of the 5 December Bonn conference on Afghanistan, we want the FAC to agree a negotiating mandate for a long-term EU-Afghanistan partnership; commit to extend the EU policing mission (EUPOL) mandate in Afghanistan to the end of 2014; and make a political commitment to involvement in justice and development reform after 2014. Pakistan has a key role to play in this process, and we will continue to make the case for increased EU engagement.

Southern Neighbourhood (Tunisia/Egypt/Syria/Libya/Yemen)

We will continue to encourage partners to look at how we might incentivise the EU's offer to its southern neighbours, especially Egypt and Tunisia, while continuing to ensure that it is clearly linked to reform benchmarks. This will be an opportunity for Ministers to respond to the recent elections in Tunisia. We expect the discussion to focus on how to maintain momentum to deliver the outcomes of the EU-Tunisia taskforce in September and plans for further support to Tunisia. On Egypt, the EU needs to assess further how its package of economic and trade incentives can support reform.

On Syria, we are urging the EU to consider increasing the pressure on the Syria regime, including through new sanctions, unless it immediately takes action to end the violence against protestors as outlined in the Arab League's initiative of 2 November.

On Libya, Ministers will have an opportunity to welcome liberation and to reinforce EU support for the newly appointed Prime Minister of the future transitional Government. Discussion is likely to focus on progress on Government formation and an update on stabilisation issues. We want the Council to reiterate its strong message of support to the Libyan authorities.

Baroness Ashton is likely to raise briefly the continuing political impasse in Yemen and the damage this is causing to an already fragile economic, humanitarian and security environment. We expect more detailed discussion on Yemen at the 1 December FAC.

The Horn of Africa

We expect Baroness Ashton to seek agreement on the adoption of the strategic framework for the horn of Africa—which has been submitted under an explanatory memorandum to both Houses. The strategic framework focuses on regional and cross-cutting issues, including development, piracy, counter-terrorism and trade. We are broadly supportive of this approach as it will enable the EU to make its engagement in the horn of Africa more effective through consistent, coherent and complementary use of its instruments and by focusing more clearly on the underlying challenges of the region.

Baroness Ashton is also expected to seek agreement to a set of Council conclusions on Somalia. The conclusions are expected to reconfirm the EU and member states' commitment to working with Somali stakeholders and international partners on a broad spectrum of issues including alleviating the humanitarian crisis, making progress towards a lasting political solution to the conflict, ensuring a credible and inclusive process towards a new constitution and tackling terrorist and pirate security threats that emanate from Somalia.

Serbia/Kosovo

Baroness Ashton is expected to update Ministers on the EU-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. We expect EU member states to give Baroness Ashton strong support for her efforts on the dialogue as a way of building practical co-operation between Kosovo and Serbia and of helping both countries make progress towards the EU in a more stable fashion.

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

We will continue to encourage the development of European civilian and military capabilities, better EU-NATO relations and a more joined-up approach to crisis management. There is likely to be informal discussion on the EU's military planning structures on which we have made, and will continue to make, our opposition to new institutions very clear. We expect formal conclusions to be agreed at the 1 December FAC.

EU-US Summit

We expect Ministers to be briefed on the preparations for the forthcoming EU-US summit taking place in Washington on 28 November. The summit is likely to focus on the pressing issues on the international agenda, including the global economy and the Arab spring.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS

Future of EU Development Policy

Ministers will discuss the recent European Commission's (EC) communication on "Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: An Agenda for Change". The communication sets out a more strategic EU approach to reducing poverty, including through a more targeted allocation of funding. Council conclusions for this communication are set to be adopted at the next Development FAC in 2012.

EU Budget Support

This item will focus on the EC communication on "The Future Approach to EU Budget Support to Third Countries". The communication aims to improve the Commission's budget support mechanisms and proposes an updated approach to the provision of various types of budget support. Council conclusions for this communication are also set to be adopted at the next Development FAC in 2012.

The EU Common Position for the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

(HLF-4, Busan, 29 November to 1 December 2011)

Ministers will adopt a common EU position for the fourth high-level forum on aid effectiveness, taking place in Busan from 29 November to 1 December 2011. The UK Government's priorities, transparency and fragility, are well reflected in the draft conclusions. We will support proposals for an ambitious outcome in Busan, one that is endorsed by all including the broader development actors.

Horn of Africa

This discussion will be held over dinner, continuing the discussion held by Foreign Ministers during the FAC. This is an opportunity to encourage member states and the EC to provide support for the horn of Africa through 2012 for humanitarian and recovery-related requirements. We will also encourage the EC to ensure resilience is built into humanitarian efforts and communities are developed to withstand humanitarian shocks.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

October and December European Councils

The European Council of 23 October focused on economic policy, the G20, climate change and foreign policy. Although overshadowed by the ongoing eurozone crisis, the focus on economic growth was welcome. The statements on Libya and the Arab spring, although not on the original agenda, were also welcome.

The conclusions of the October European Council meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/125496.pdf.

This was quickly followed by an informal meeting of the members of the European Council on 26 October to prepare the Euro summit.

The statement from the informal meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/125621.pdf.

The Euro summit statement can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/125644.pdf.

The General Affairs Council will also discuss preparation for the December European Council. The agenda includes the ongoing economic issues for the EU, energy policy and enlargement.

Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF)

The European Commission has released the proposal for a Council regulation laying down the MFF for the period 2014-2020 on 29 June 2011. (See link below.)

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/documents/fin_fwk1420/proposal_council_regulation_COM-398_en.pdf

The UK's position on the MFF is that budgetary constraint and ensuring that the EU budget contributes to domestic fiscal consolidation are the highest priorities.

The Prime Minister has stated, jointly with France and Germany, that the maximum acceptable expenditure increase for the next MFF would be a real freeze in payments. This must be year on year from the actual level of payments in 2013.

At a time of ongoing economic fragility in Europe and tight constraints on domestic public spending, the Commission's proposal for the MFF is unrealistic. It is too large; it is not the restrained budget the Commission claims; and it is incompatible with the tough decisions being taken in countries across Europe.

Baltic Sea Strategy

The General Affairs and External Relations Council and European Council endorsed the implementation of the Baltic sea strategy in October 2009. The broad aim of the strategy is to address common challenges in the region. The GAC is expected to agree conclusions welcoming a progress report on the strategy.

HEALTH

Opportunities for Volunteering (Legacy Report)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): The Government have today announced the publication of the final Opportunities for Volunteering report. "Opportunities for Volunteering—the legacy report" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

The Government recognise that volunteers play an important role in building resilient communities. In the context of health, public health and social care, they contribute to the delivery of high quality health, care and support services; improving health and well-being; and helping to reduce health and social inequality. They frequently offer support to people at the most vulnerable points in their lives.

The Department supports the focus during this month on health and care by the European year of volunteering and believes this report demonstrates a long standing commitment to encourage volunteering in that context stretching back three decades.

This Opportunities for Volunteering legacy report sets out not only the Government's recognition and appreciation of the scheme's achievements since its launch in 1982. It also—primarily—sets out the reflections on the scheme from the Opportunities for Volunteering national agents who have delivered it on behalf of the Department. Achievements of the scheme, from the perspective of national agents, include:

- developing the volunteer infrastructure;
- improving volunteer management practice;
- fostering an environment for projects to seek out new alliances;
- helping small and emerging organisations to recruit volunteers and involve service users; and
- empowering service users to become volunteers themselves.

The noble and proud tradition of volunteering across the full range of health and care settings, that Opportunities for Volunteering has embodied with distinction for so long, is being continued through the Department's health and social care volunteering fund that was launched in December 2009 as the successor. This new fund is closely aligned with the four priorities of the new strategic vision for volunteering for health and care. "Social action for health and well-being: building co-operative communities", the Department's new strategic vision for volunteering, was launched in October this year.

UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I am today announcing the publication of the "UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy 2011" and the Government response to the consultation launched on 22 March 2011.

The majority of comments on both policy and operational detail were in strong agreement with the overall approach set out in the strategy. All comments have been considered when finalising the updated strategy.

Each of the UK Governments will produce separate health and social care facing documents, which will address the operational detail.

We plan to publish the English health and social care document in the next few months and it will be subject to the agreement of the new health system in England.

This strategy and Government response have been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. The strategy can also be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/
Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/
DH_130903.

The consultation response also can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/
Responsestoconsultations/DH_130901.

PRIME MINISTER

Consolidated Guidance on Detainees (Update)

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): The Government published the "Consolidated Guidance to Intelligence Officers and Service Personnel on the Detention and Interviewing of Detainees Overseas, and on the Passing and Receipt of Intelligence Relating to Detainees" on 6 July 2010. The guidance was subsequently made the subject of two linked legal challenges; one brought by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and the other brought by public interest lawyers on behalf of Mr Al-Bazzouni. Judgment in these two linked cases was handed down by the High Court on Monday 3 October. The Court dismissed the challenge brought by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, accepting the Government's position that there was no material difference between "real risk" and "serious risk" as the threshold at which officers may proceed or must refer cases for more senior consideration, and that it was legitimate for the guidance to use the term "serious risk". As a judicial endorsement of Government policy, this was an extremely positive outcome.

The Court, however, found in favour of Mr Al-Bazzouni on his challenge regarding the lawfulness of the exception in the annex to the guidance which states that the following could constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CIDT):

> "methods of obscuring vision or hooding (except where these do not pose a risk to the detainee's physical or mental health and is necessary for security reasons during arrest or transit)".

The Court considered that although the exception could conceivably operate lawfully (so that UK officers could legitimately proceed where a detainee had been hooded in accordance with the conditions set out in the exception), it was unworkable to expect officers on the ground to judge whether the detainees held by foreign liaison services came within the exception, and that the annex should therefore be amended to omit hooding from the ambit of the exception. The relevant section of the guidance has therefore been slightly reworked to reflect this finding. The revised version of the guidance has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

To be clear, the Government stand firmly against torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. We do not condone it, nor do we ask others to do it on our behalf. Officers whose actions are consistent with the guidance should have confidence that they will not risk personal liability.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 14 November 2011

TREASURY

Modernising the Personal Tax System

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government are committed to making the UK tax system simpler, more transparent and easier to use. As part of this, the Government have today set out further details on a number of initiatives aimed at modernising the personal tax system.

First, there is a discussion document seeking views on improving the transparency and accessibility of personal tax information: "Modernising the administration of the personal tax system: tax transparency for individuals". The document is available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/index.htm.

Secondly, there is a document describing the next phase of work to explore options for integrating the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions: "Integrating the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions: next steps". The document is available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_income_nics.htm.

Thirdly, there are draft regulations for the introduction of real time information: amendments to the regulations for pay-as-you-earn, national insurance contributions and the construction industry scheme. The draft regulations, and an accompanying technical note, are available on the HMRC website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/index.htm.

HM Treasury's tax consultation tracker has been updated to reflect these publications. It is available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_updates.htm.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): For 2011-12, the coalition Government offered a grant to English councils which froze their council tax. It was taken up by all councils. As promised in my written statement of 10 October, *Official Report*, column 2WS, I am now setting out the provisions for the new scheme that the Government are offering English local authorities which decide to freeze their council tax for 2012-13.

Council tax has more than doubled since 1997 and the freeze will offer real help to hard working families and those on fixed incomes such as pensioners. Compared to a rise of 5%, it could help save local taxpayers in England living in an average band D home up to £72 on top of the saving from this year's freeze.

To help local authorities with their budget planning, my Department will today publish on its website an estimate of the grant each participating authority would receive. Grants will be finalised once authorities have reported, by March 2012, the tax base underpinning their calculation of council tax for 2012-13.

My officials will today write to local authorities with full details of how the scheme will operate. For the benefit of the House, the key elements are as follows:

> a. The scheme will be voluntary; and will apply separately to each billing and major precepting authority in England (including police and fire and rescue authorities) rather than to each council tax bill issued. Local precepting authorities, such as town and parish councils, will not be included in the scheme, but I urge them to exercise restraint and help make sure no council taxpayer faces an increased bill.
>
> b. Where an authority does not increase its basic amount of council tax in 2012-13 compared with 2011-12, it will be eligible to receive a grant equivalent:
>
> i) for police authorities, and single purpose fire and rescue authorities, to a 3% increase in its 2011-12 band D figure *multiplied* by the authority's 2012-13 tax base figure;
>
> ii) for the City of London, to a 2.75% increase in its 2011-12 Band D figure *multiplied* by the authority's 2012-13 tax base figure;
>
> iii) for other principal authorities, to a 2.5% increase in its 2011-12 band D figure *multiplied* by the authority's 2012-13 tax base figure.
>
> Slightly different arrangements will apply for the Greater London Authority (based upon a combination of a 2.75% and a 3% increase) and for those authorities which restructured in 2009 (based upon a 2.5% increase), to reflect their unique circumstances.
>
> c. The scheme for 2012-13 will comprise a one-off payment of grant, and is payable for one year only.

The Government hope all local authorities will sign up to the new scheme. When the provisions of the Localism Bill come into effect, local residents will of course have the power to veto excessive council tax rises in the future.

The arrangements for funding the 2011-12 council tax freeze are unaffected by this new offer from Government. The intention remains that authorities will receive grant in relation to the 2011-12 freeze in each of the remaining years of the spending review.

DEFENCE

Operations in Afghanistan

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): With the expiry of the call-out order made on 11 November 2010, a new order has been made under section 54 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable reservists to continue to be called out into service to support operations in Afghanistan. The new order is effective until 10 November 2012. Reservists continue to make a valuable contribution to operations in that country and some 1,000 reservists are currently called out and serving, of whom over 550 are deployed in Afghanistan.

EDUCATION

New Schools

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): It is critically important for our nation's future that we reform our schools system to provide a wide choice for all parents and children. The establishment of over 1,400 academies and 24 free schools has helped drive up standards and create more choice.

Therefore, I am pleased to confirm today that a further three special and five alternative provision free schools have been approved with a view to opening in September 2012.

Rosewood school, Southampton
City of Peterborough Academy special school, Peterborough
Lighthouse School, Leeds
Derby Pride Academy, Derby
Harmonize Academy, Liverpool
Stone Soup Learns, Nottingham
Everton in the Community Free School Trust, Liverpool
East Birmingham Network, Birmingham

I am committed to both increasing and improving the provision available to children with special educational needs and those that require alternative provision. I have approved the very strongest applications today. I fully expect some of the groups that are disappointed today to submit even stronger applications in the future and I encourage them to do so.

I am also releasing guidance on the application process to set up new free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools in 2013 and beyond. I want to particularly encourage groups to submit applications to set up new schools in areas of deprivation, or areas where the growth in the pupil population means there is a need for new school places.

Details of the application process and its deadlines can be found on the Department for Education's website and I will place copies in the House Libraries.

I will make a further announcement on successful applications to set up studio schools in 2012 in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The next Agriculture and Fisheries Council is on Monday 14 November, in Brussels. I shall represent the UK on agriculture matters, accompanied by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State. The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responsible for environment and fisheries my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) will be representing the United Kingdom on the fisheries items. Richard Lochhead MSP, Michelle O'Neill MLA and Alun Davies AM will also attend.

The Council meeting will open in its fisheries formation with a discussion of the only substantive fisheries agenda item on external aspects of the proposals for common fisheries policy (CFP) reform. The debate will focus on engagement with regional fisheries management organisations and the EU's external fisheries agreements.

On agricultural business, there is one item on the main agenda: discussion of the common agricultural policy reform proposal on direct payments. The presidency has posed questions about the overall structure of the direct payments proposals and explicitly on the proposed reallocations between member states.

There are four items under any other business. The first is an update from the Commission on compliance with the welfare of laying hens directive. It is not clear how much discussion is expected on this item. The second and third AoB items will see the presidency reports back on two recent forestry meetings (the forestry for climate and biodiversity conference and EU forestry and nature DGs meeting) and on the regular meeting of paying agency heads. And finally there is a request from the Hungarian presidency to discuss the prolongation of sugar regime to 2020.

Finally, there is a ministerial lunch scheduled during which heads of member state delegations will discuss the greening aspects of the CAP reform proposals.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Birth and Bereavement Service

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): I am pleased to announce that the cross-Government "tell us once" service has begun to roll out nationally.

"Tell us once" provides a valuable service to citizens when having to report a birth or a death to central and local government. "Tell us once" enables citizens to inform Government of the event "just once" and have this information shared across the relevant Government services. This not only brings savings to the taxpayer but reduces the burden on citizens when the demands on their time are greatest.

A total of 96% of local authorities have committed to deliver the service and to date 134 local authorities are now offering the service to citizens with the remainder due to go live in this financial year. This level of voluntary take up is a testament to the excellent working relationships between central and local government and a mark of the value seen in this initiative.

The Department for Work and Pensions were considering using the same principles to develop a change of address service and had intended to pilot this in the summer of 2011. Given the immediate priorities of welfare reform that the Department must deliver, the decision has been taken not to pursue this work at the current time.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 15 November 2011

TREASURY

ECOFIN (8 November 2011)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 8 November 2011. The following items were discussed:

Financial Transaction Taxes (FTTs)

The Commission presented its proposal on FTTs. Under the proposal, the tax would apply where at least one of the parties to the transaction was established in a member state. The tax rate would be 0.1% of the value of equity and bond transactions, and 0.01% on derivative contracts on the notional value of the transaction. I made it clear that the Government do not support the Commission's proposal. As stated in the Commission's own assessment, it would reduce growth and cut jobs. Other member states, including Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania and Sweden also voiced concerns with the current proposal. I asked the presidency and the Commission to work on a timetable to resolve this issue quickly, as it was clear that the Council would not be able to reach unanimous agreement on this proposal. The presidency noted the request for a fast resolution, and suggested the working group meeting on 5 December should consider options and alternatives to put to Ministers for further consideration.

Energy Taxation Directive (ETD)

The presidency decided to remove the orientation debate on the ETD from the agenda. This directive would require member states to tax energy products by taking into account both CO_2 emissions and energy content. Discussion will continue with officials at working group level.

Follow up to the October European Council. 23 October and Informal meeting of EU Head of State or Government on 26 October

Ministers discussed the banking package that was announced on the 26 October by EU Heads of State and Government. The discussion focused on all three aspects of the banking package: access to term funding for banks; bank recapitalisation; and state aid guidelines. I made it clear that the Government would support co-ordinated national guarantee schemes, where appropriate, to support banks accessing term funding. However, the Government could not support a scheme which placed euro area bank liabilities on the UK. I underlined the importance of the bank recapitalisation aspect of the package. This should be undertaken while mitigating the risk of deleveraging. I also emphasised that the state aid rules should continue to apply fully. As a next step, the Council asked the Economic and Financial Committee to explore the options for addressing the issues related to access to term funding.

Follow up to the G20 summit 3-4 November in Cannes

Ministers discussed the outcomes from the G20 leaders' summit held in Cannes on 3-4 November. The outcomes from the summit include: an action plan for growth and jobs; building a more stable and resilient international monetary system; reforming the financial sector; promoting more efficient commodity markets; strengthening the international trading system; and addressing climate change and development challenges. The G20 agreed that additional resources for the IMF could be mobilised in a timely manner; Finance Ministers will work on deploying a range of options by their next meeting.

Financial assistance to Greece—disbursement of next instalment

The presidency removed this item from the agenda. Euro area countries and the IMF made it clear that they would not disburse the next instalment of the Greek financial assistance programme until there was greater certainty about the new Greek Government. Once the new Government have endorsed the measures to put Greek debt on a sustainable footing, as agreed at the informal meeting of EU Heads of State and Government on the 26 October, the sixth tranche can be disbursed.

Economic governance—surveillance of macroeconomic imbalances: design of the "scoreboard"

The Council agreed conclusions on the scoreboard for assessing macroeconomic imbalances. Ministers agreed that current account surpluses would not lead to sanctions. Ministers also agreed the scoreboard for the excessive imbalances procedure. The Government support these measures as they will help to restore and maintain macroeconomic stability in the EU. The six-pack on economic governance, including the scoreboard, will be implemented in mid-December.

Preparation of the 17th Conference of Parties (COP-17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban. South Africa

ECOFIN agreed conclusions on climate change in preparation for the UN conference in Durban, 28 November to 9 December. The conclusions endorse a report on finance provided by the EU and its member states as part of their "fast start" commitments. These commitments will aid climate mitigation and adaptation measures in developing countries.

Annual Meeting of EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Economy and Finance Ministers

This meeting took place before the formal ECOFIN, and discussed improving regulation to secure financial stability. The Commission outlined the comprehensive response that was set out at the informal meeting of EU Heads of State and Government on 26 October. The President of the European Central Bank, made it clear that the Basel III rules on capital requirements for banks should be minimum, not maximum requirements. There is a risk that banks might deleverage as a consequence of the current economic environment and uncertainty about capital requirement rules. Following this, there was a roundtable discussion with Finance Ministers from Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. EFTA countries shared their views on the recent financial crisis and economic developments in euro area countries, and the impacts of these on their own economies.

Follow up to the Eurogroup meeting, 7 November

Ministers discussed political and economic developments in the euro area, as a follow-up to the Eurogroup meeting. I underlined that the deterioration in the euro area was having a huge impact on the UK and other non-euro area countries. As such, all 27 countries have a strong interest in the situation being resolved. I made it clear that the euro area needed to give more detail on how they would implement the package agreed at the informal meeting of EU Heads of State and Government on the 26 October.

ECOFIN (18 November 2011)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council—Budget meeting will be held in Brussels on 18 November 2011. There is no provisional agenda at present. The following items are on the agenda:

Preparation of the Conciliation Committee meeting with the European Parliaments

The Council will aim to agree a final position on the draft budget for 2012, as part of negotiations with the European Parliament via a concurrent Conciliation Committee meeting. The Government will seek a final budget that delivers real budgetary restraint at EU level, supporting ongoing efforts to consolidate public finances across many member states, and that respects the principles of sound financial management.

As part of this process, the Government expect Ministers to be invited to discuss the Letter of amendment No. 2 to the preliminary draft budget for 2012, which handles mainly administrative costs relating to the expected accession of Croatia to the EU. The Government believe that these amendments should not increase the level of EU administrative expenditure.

Ministers are also expected to be invited to discuss Letter of amendment No. 3 to the preliminary draft budget for 2012, which concerns updates for estimated needs for agricultural expenditure and international fisheries agreements, reflecting changing market factors, revised estimates of needs for some direct payments, and legislative decisions this year, which are expected to affect this policy area next year. The Government are broadly supportive of these technical amendments.

Finally, Ministers may be invited to discuss this preliminary draft amending budget No. 6 for 2011, which would amend the 2011 EU budget to reflect latest implementation capacity and financial needs for the remainder of this year. The Government believe that any extra funding needs should be met fully via redeployments within existing budgets.

Outcome of the Conciliation Committee meeting with the European Parliaments

The Council will seek to agree to the outcome of the Conciliation Committee conciliation.

Any other business

At this time, the Government do not expect any issues to be raised under this agenda item.

Banking Act 2009 Reporting

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Treasury has laid before the House of Commons a report required under section 231 of the Banking Act 2009 covering the period from 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011. Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Personal Independence Payment

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Welfare Reform Bill introduces a new disability benefit, personal independence payment (PIP), which will replace disability living allowance (DLA) for working-age claimants from 2013-14. There are a number of existing tax reliefs relating to DLA, and suitable amendments to a number of pieces of tax legislation will be needed on the transition to PIP.

In line with the Government's approach to tax policy making, legislation relating to these provisions will be published in draft form in due course, with appropriate amendments made in a future Finance Bill (or by Treasury Order if appropriate).

In line with this, the relevant provisions have been removed from the Welfare Reform Bill.

However, the Government have decided to retain the provision in the Welfare Reform Bill that will make PIP tax exempt, in order to provide absolute certainty that these payments will be free of tax.

Private Finance Initiative

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): Today, I am announcing the Government's intention to reform the private finance initiative (PFI).

The Government are committed to continuing sustainable investment in the assets we need to deliver public services, including our schools, hospitals and roads. However, we need to ensure that this investment is cost-effective, and that the taxpayer is getting maximum value for money. The Government share some of the commonly identified concerns that PFI contracts can be too costly, inflexible and opaque.

Reforming the PFI model will be the next in a series of steps that this Government have already taken to improve the cost-effectiveness and transparency of PFI.

We abolished PFI credits at the spending review 2010 to create a level playing field for all forms of public procurement. We also introduced new assurance and approval arrangements in April this year, to strengthen the scrutiny given in the approval process of all projects, including those using private finance.

In July, to improve transparency, the Government published, for the first time, the unaudited Whole of Government accounts which included an assessment of the PFI liabilities, and we announced a plan to deliver £1.5 billion of savings from the existing stock of PFI contracts in England.

The Government will expect a new delivery model to draw on private sector innovation but at a lower cost to the taxpayer, offering better value for our investment in public services. The Government's approach to reform will be guided by the following principles, to create a model that:

is less expensive, and that uses private sector innovation to deliver services more cost-effectively;

can access a wider range of financing sources, including encouraging a stronger role to be played by pension fund investment;

strikes a better balance between risk and reward to the private sector;

has greater flexibility to accommodate changing public service needs over time;

maintains the incentive on the private sector to deliver capital projects to time and to budget and to take performance risk on the delivery of services;

delivers an accelerated and cheaper procurement process; and

gives greater financial transparency at all levels of the project so that the public sector is confident that it is getting what it paid for, and that the taxpayer is sure it is getting a fair deal now and over the longer term.

In order to bring about that change I am announcing the Government's intention to conduct a broad-based engagement process with interested parties, led by the Treasury, to bring forward proposals for a new approach in using the private sector in the delivery of public assets. In considering what the future model should be it will be important to learn from the past and make full use of the wealth of experience that exists across the public and private sectors, and internationally. Where PFI has been successful—in getting projects delivered to time and to budget, and creating the correct disciplines and incentives on the private sector to effectively manage risk—we will look to retain these benefits.

The Government will be launching a call for evidence on 1 December that aims to capture the learning and lessons of the past 20 years of PFI. We will look to use those lessons to help inform the development of a new model that addresses the concerns of PFI. We invite those across the private and public sector that have strong ideas on how the future model should work to come forward with proposals and contribute to the development of a new delivery model.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Conservation Zones

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): As part of the Government's commitment to implementing in full the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, we are creating a network of national protected areas in British seas to ensure our underwater wildlife flourishes in years to come. We are clear that looking after the wildlife and habitat in our seas is just as important as looking after those on land.

The Government's first step to identifying new marine conservation zones (MCZs) in English waters was taken forward through four regional MCZ projects managed by the statutory nature conservation bodies, who are Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. The regional projects provided their recommendations for proposed sites for MCZs on 8 September. These have been reviewed by the independent science advisory panel (SAP) and their advice to the SNCBs and DEFRA is being published today on DEFRA's website.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act requires the establishment of a network of conservation sites in the UK marine area. In English waters the network will comprise European marine sites, sites of special scientific interest, sites designated under the Ramsar convention and marine conservation zones (MCZs). The Act requires that the network must conserve or improve the UK marine environment and protect a range of representative features.

The regional MCZ projects have done excellent work in bringing stakeholders together and making site recommendations, but it is clear from the SAP's advice that there are a number of gaps and limitations in the scientific evidence base supporting the MCZ recommendations.

It is important that we get this right. It is vital that we have an adequate evidence base for every site if we are to create successful well-managed MCZs. An adequately robust evidence base will be essential when we come to implement management measures.

DEFRA will therefore be commissioning significant additional work to support MCZ designation including an in-depth review of the evidence base for all the regional projects' site recommendations and committing additional resources to carrying out seabed and habitat monitoring.

Protecting our marine environment is essential and the Government remain fully committed to establishing MCZs to contribute to an ecologically coherent UK network. However, the need to strengthen the evidence base for the MCZ recommendations means this is going to take longer than the ambitious target first put forward. We are likely to be able to designate some MCZs fairly quickly where the supporting evidence is adequate. However, for others we anticipate that more investigation will be needed before they can progress towards designation.

Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee will provide the MCZ impact assessment and their formal advice in July 2012. This is six months later than previously planned and this revised timetable will enable them to address the recommendations from the independent review of the evidence process for selecting marine Special Areas of Conservation (published July 2011) and take account of any further evidence obtained from the work that DEFRA is now commissioning. We will give careful consideration to all the advice received before undertaking formal public consultation on MCZs by the end of 2012. This consultation will include all sites recommended by the regional projects with clarity on how and when work on them will be taken forward. It is envisaged that the first MCZ designations will take place in 2013.

DEFRA and delivery partners will work together ensuring that early management measures are put in place to provide effective levels of protection for designated sites and continuing to build the evidence base for future designations. DEFRA will also take the opportunity, working with stakeholders and SNCBs, to look at other marine features which may benefit from spatial protection.

This phased approach to designation will also allow more scope to shape the English network taking account of sites being considered by the devolved Administrations and neighbouring member states.

Natural Capital Committee

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The natural environment White Paper, published on 7 June 2011, set out the Government's intention to establish an independent Natural Capital Committee. It will commence its work in early 2012. As part of this, I will be making appointments to this new committee, and these will be advertised shortly.

The natural environment White Paper sets out our commitment to putting natural capital at the centre of economic thinking, and at the heart of the green economy. The Natural Capital Committee will enable us to achieve this goal by advising the Government on the state of natural capital in England. The Committee will report to the Economic Affairs Committee, chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Committee will:

> Provide advice on when, where and how natural assets are being used unsustainably.
>
> Advise the Government on how they could prioritise action to protect and improve natural capital, so that public and private activity is focused where it will have greatest impact on improving wellbeing in our society.
>
> Advise the Government on research priorities to improve future advice and decisions on protecting and enhancing natural capital.

Further information on the natural environment White Paper can be found on the DEFRA website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

UK Relations with Colombia

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): I wish to update the House on the UK's developing partnership with Colombia, and the opportunities this provides to both our countries.

In last November's Canning lecture, the Foreign Secretary set out his vision for a step change in the UK's relationship with Latin America. As part of our re-engagement with the region, the relationship between the UK and Colombia is broadening and deepening. Colombia has the potential to be one of Latin America's great success stories and we are working in partnership with the Colombian Government to help it achieve this aim. Colombia is already an emerging power with a diversified economy, a growing middle class and a strong, democratic central Government. Colombia's economy grew by 4.3% in 2010, with similarly strong growth forecast over the next five years. It has achieved macroeconomic stability.

It is important not to forget the context in which this has taken place. Colombia is addressing a legacy of over 50 years of armed conflict. In the 1990s the country was on the brink of political, social and economic collapse. The numbers of paramilitary and guerrilla forces grew and Colombia endured increasing and apparently unstoppable violence, cocaine production and trafficking, poor economic performance and massive internal displacement. Colombia's citizens suffered serious human rights abuses, including the extrajudicial killing of thousands of civilians by members of the armed forces.

A new Colombia is emerging. Since the 1990s, the security situation has changed dramatically. There has been significant reduction of cocaine production, while murder and kidnapping rates have sharply decreased. The FARC guerrilla group has been significantly weakened.

The country's progress to date in dealing with these issues should be recognised, but we should not shy away from the scale of the remaining problems. High numbers of candidates were murdered in the months before last month's local elections. Too many Colombian soldiers continue to lose their lives at the hands of the FARC. Large numbers of alleged cases of extra judicial killings are yet to be prosecuted. Deadly attacks on human rights defenders have increased. Making progress in these areas is fundamental to Colombia realising its full potential.

The Colombian President, Juan Manuel Santos, stated his strong commitment to reform and modernisation in his inauguration speech in 2010. He has set out an ambitious programme in the areas of governance, equality, prosperity and security and committed to a policy of zero tolerance of human rights abuses. President Santos has improved relations with neighbouring countries like Ecuador and Venezuela and enhanced the active and constructive role Colombia plays internationally.

We have already seen important examples of these pledges being put into practice. The Santos Government have passed the flagship Victims and Land Restitution Law, which aims to return land to millions of displaced people and compensate victims. The state intelligence agency (DAS), which had been responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses, has been disbanded. In September, in a landmark judgment, its former head was found guilty of criminal conspiracy for providing right-wing militias with lists of leftist activists and trade union leaders, some of whom were subsequently killed or imprisoned. The rate of prosecutions for extrajudicial killings has risen sharply.

Colombia is at a pivotal moment of change at which it enjoys the leadership of a strong president with a strong mandate, with whom we share common values. The UK is taking the opportunity this offers to develop further our close relationship with Colombia.

Prosperity—Partnership for Growth

Promoting trade is vital for the UK's economy and prosperity. Our approach is to ensure that Colombia's economic growth, development, human rights and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

At present Colombia is only the UK's fifth largest export market in Latin America. The export of UK goods to Colombia grew over 30% in 2010 and has grown even faster in the first half of 2011. But there is more potential to be realised. We support the EU/Andean multiparty trade agreement, which will help to increase our commercial exchanges. Education, science and innovation are central to the growth of both our economies. Colombia has pledged $89 billion for investment in these sectors by 2015. Educational exchange will be a central part of our relationship. We will explore opportunities to develop partnerships between UK and Colombian research institutes and spin-off companies.

Human Rights—Shared Values

We welcome the efforts of the Santos Government to address human rights abuses through a wide-ranging reform programme and a national human rights policy, working with civil society and the international community. This commitment has already translated into an improved dialogue with civil society, better relations with the judiciary and an impressive legislative record.

We have long been a strong advocate of human rights improvements in Colombia and a close partner of the Colombian Government and civil society in delivering them. This is a central part of our relationship and will not change.

Very serious problems remain, on which we encourage further progress. This includes ensuring the security of human rights defenders, protecting the cultural and territorial rights of indigenous groups, tackling impunity and improving access to justice.

Security and International Partnerships—Common Purpose

At the UN and elsewhere, the UK and Colombia continue to have a strong partnership on international security matters and on counter narcotics. We are working together closely at the UN Security Council.

Counter-narcotics work in Latin America is an integral part of the UK's drugs strategy. Colombian cocaine poses a direct and significant threat to the UK. With our help, in recent years Colombia has arrested high-profile drugs traffickers, dismantled organised crime networks and seized over 25 tonnes of cocaine per year. Our support for this work will continue.

We are developing our partnership to achieve shared objectives on other international issues such as climate change and biodiversity. We work together in international fora to pursue green growth, combat climate change and secure our energy supplies for the long term. We are both committed to a legally binding international climate agreement and have strategies for delivering low carbon growth.

Our relationship with Colombia has long historical roots and is broad and rich in substance. It is predicated on our common aim of improving prosperity and security in the UK, Colombia and further afield. The Government look forward to developing our broad-based relationship further and the visit of President Santos to the UK later this month will make a significant contribution to this process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Misuse of Drugs

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to announce that the final version of the joint Working Protocol, developed and agreed between this Government and the Advisory Council on the misuse of drugs, has been deposited in the House Library today.

The new Working Protocol sets out the framework within which the Government and the Advisory Council commit to engage in the provision and receipt of its expert advice to Government on drug-related issues; maintain the expertise and membership of the Council; and intend to work together under the new power under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to invoke temporary control of a new and emerging psychoactive substance to help prevent harm.

Hon. Members may wish to note that a draft of the protocol was made available (DEP2011-0598) to the House to help inform the scrutiny of related provisions in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Government and the Council will continue to embed working practices in accordance with the Working Protocol. The Working Protocol will support the Council in the delivery of its work programme that addresses both the work priorities set by Government as well as work of its own volition. The Council has recently delivered a thematic report on new psychoactive substances, which I commissioned, and that will now inform a cross-Government strategic response to this problem. It is also working to provide expert advice to deliver recovery based support to dependent users, which is central to this Government's drug strategy.

Professor Les Iversen, chair of the Advisory Council, and I welcome the protocol in supporting our respective roles and responsibilities. At the heart of the protocol is a shared commitment to ensuring that the best evidence-based advice is available to Government on drug misuse, working together with the common purpose of reducing drug-related harms in the UK.

JUSTICE

High Court and Court of Appeal Civil Division (Fees)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I have published today a consultation paper detailing proposals to increase fees in the High Court and Court of Appeal Civil Division.

These two jurisdictions hear the most complex civil court cases, and are particularly resource-intensive to run. The fees structure does not currently reflect the cost of providing services in these courts, meaning that there is a significant gap between costs and fee income. We propose to make targeted changes to these structures, affecting around 30 fees, in order to align more closely costs and income. Taken together, the proposals would reduce the current taxpayer contribution to HMCTS by £12 million to £14 million.

The cost of running the civil and family courts is currently around £612 million a year. Of this amount, 80% is funded through court fees with the remaining 20%, around £121 million, funded by the taxpayer. The Government's long-term aim is to reduce this taxpayer subsidy by ensuring that fee income covers 100% of the cost of providing civil court services, minus the income foregone to the remission system. This is a system of fee waivers and reductions which ensures that access to justice is preserved for the least well off; around 160,000 fee remissions are granted per year.

Reducing the taxpayer subsidy of the courts service will be achieved through a combination of cost reductions (for example, reform of the courts estate, changes to civil and family justice processes) and fee increases. This will offer a fairer system to the taxpayer by targeting their contribution where it is most needed, and will ensure that, as far as possible, users pay for the service they receive while access to justice is protected for the most vulnerable.

As the cost of running civil court services is projected to decrease due to planned efficiency savings taking effect, it would be premature to increase all civil court fees to cover costs in a single round and risk recovering more than the cost of running the service. Instead, we propose to make phased and measured increases to fees over the short to medium term in order to balance correctly cost reduction and fee increases. My Department has already taken several such steps:

> September 2010—inflationary increases to fees paid in private family cases, which projected an increase in fee income of around £6 million per year.
>
> April 2011—inflationary increases to most civil, family and non-contentious probate court fees since each fee's last increase, which is projected to increase court fee income by around £21 million per year.

This consultation paper represents the next step in this strategy. The paper contains 17 proposals affecting just over 30 civil fees in the High Court and Court of Appeal Civil Division, focusing on areas where there is a noticeable gap between fees and the cost of providing services in particular cases. The proposals cover diverse areas of work in these jurisdictions; the most notable are:

> introduction of higher bands of issue (entry) fees in the High Court. The current highest issue fee paid is £1,670, for money claims over £300,000. We propose to add further bands, meaning that the highest entry fee paid would be £10,000, for claims over £1 billion;
>
> introduction of time-related hearing fees in the High Court and Court of Appeal Civil Division to reflect the increased cost involved in providing longer trials. The current hearing fee in the High Court is £1,090; we propose to introduce banded fees based on the time a court hearing is projected to last. The highest proposed fee is £10,900, for a case which lasts over 10 days.

Making increases in this way will mean that those whose cases consume a greater resource in court will pay more proportionally for the cost of processing their case, while the remission system remains in place for those who cannot afford to pay fees.

It is available online at http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations.

TRANSPORT

Rail Reform

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): Our railways are currently the most expensive in Europe. That is something we can and must tackle. The recent review by Sir Roy McNulty found scope to cut rail costs by 30%—up to £1 billion a year. My Department is committed to working with the rail industry to develop a strategy to deliver a better value railway for the benefit of passengers, taxpayers and the wider economy.

In furtherance of that strategy, my Department has undertaken to develop and publish detailed proposals on delivering a sustainable railway including reform of Network Rail. I am today announcing my intention to publish a Command Paper that sets out those proposals early next year.

It will allow time for greater consideration of other issues central to the question of rail reform. This will also allow the Command Paper to reflect properly the consequences of my decision following our consultation on a national high-speed rail network.

As part of the development of a comprehensive strategy for rail, and alongside the Command Paper, I also plan to consult on the scope to devolve responsibility for some rail passenger services in parts of England to sub-national bodies, and on issues relating to the review of fares and ticketing announced in May. In addition, the ORR expects to consult later this year on possible changes to its role, particularly in respect of future franchises.

Petition

Monday 14 November 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Wharfedale Hospital Ward 1 (Otley, West Yorkshire)

The Petition of residents of Leeds,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the decision by Leeds University Teaching Hospitals Trust to close ward one at Wharfedale Hospital and oppose any further loss of services at the hospital.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Leeds University Teaching Hospitals Trust and NHS Leeds to commit to Wharfedale Hospital's future as a genuine community NHS hospital.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Greg Mulholland, Official Report,* 25 October 2011; Vol. 534, c. 287.]

[P000971]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health, received 11 November 2011:

We are aware that as part of an internal change project known as "Managing for Success", Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has centralised provision of older people's services at St James's University Hospital. We understand that this change has involved the closure of ward one at Wharfedale Hospital. Provision of health care services, including those provided from Wharfedale Hospital, is a matter for the local NHS. As such, it would not be appropriate for Ministers to intervene or become involved. However, we are advised that the trust is committed to Wharfedale Hospital continuing to deliver safe, appropriate and sustainable care to patients.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 7 November 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Electricity

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the removal of its subsidy of biomass for electricity. [78553]

Gregory Barker: The Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), who has responsibility for enegy, recently met Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism, and stakeholders from the wood processing and bioenergy industries to discuss this and other issues.

Biofuels: Timber

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he is considering reducing the subsidy for biomass for wood sourced in the UK. [78554]

Gregory Barker: On 20 October 2011, we published our proposals for the levels of support available for renewable electricity generation, including sustainable biomass electricity, under the renewables obligation (RO) for the period 2013 to 2017. Our proposals aim to support the most cost-effective biomass generation such as conversion from coal which we expect to be fuelled from imports. They represent a cautious approach to the growth of new dedicated biomass plant and take account of the availability of sustainable feedstocks and the demand in non-energy sectors.

This is a consultation. We are open to evidence from all parties on the role of biomass and the level of subsidies and are already in dialogue with the wood panel industry and others on these issues.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings he has had with *(a)* the Renewable Energy Association and *(b)* the Solar Traders Association since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [78723]

Gregory Barker: All ministerial meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and can be found on the Department's website by clicking the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Energy: Prices

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the reason is for the time taken by his Department to announce its consultation on the Energy Company Obligation. [78789]

Gregory Barker: We will be consulting on the energy company obligation (ECO) jointly with the Green Deal. We are currently finalising the documents, including draft statutory instruments to establish the whole Green Deal and ECO legal framework, which we will publish for consultation shortly.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the risks of contamination of the water supply by the process of fracking from the leak of *(a)* fracking fluid and *(b)* methane gas. [79046]

Charles Hendry: Protection of water supplies in England and Wales are a matter for the Environment Agency, and for the corresponding bodies in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Assessment of the risk of contamination to water sources from fracking would be carried out on a case-by-case basis.

Currently the only shale gas fracking which has taken place is at one of Cuadrilla's drilling sites in Lancashire. In this case, I understand that the Environment Agency have assessed the risks both in relation to fracking fluid and methane gas and, on present information, do not consider that these shale drilling operations pose a risk to the environment—including to water resources. If the drilling operations were to change the Environment Agency would reassess the risk, and any necessary monitoring and control measures would be put in place to protect the environment, including any drinking water sources.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether community-owned renewable energy schemes with a generating capacity above 50 kW will be eligible to receive support through his proposed feed-in tariff with contract for difference. [78770]

Gregory Barker: Eligible community-owned renewable electricity generating schemes between 50 kW and 5 MW are able to choose support under either the small-scale feed-in tariff or the renewables obligation. Work is currently under way to determine the appropriate eligibility criteria for the feed-in tariff with contract for difference scheme and how it should interact with other support mechanisms.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of feed-in tariff installations are in *(a)* solar, *(b)* wind, *(c)* micro combined heat and power and *(d)* hydro. [79096]

Gregory Barker: The percentage of feed-in tariff installations confirmed onto the FIT scheme by technology type are:

	As at end of October 2011	
Technology type	*Number of installations*	*Percentage of total installations*
Solar photovoltaics	92,525	97.4
Wind	1,917	2.0
Micro combined and heat power	276	0.3
Hydro	242	0.3
Anaerobic digestion	13	—
Total	94,973	100.0

Notes:

1. The latest feed-in tariff statistics were published at 9:30 am on 4 November 2011. A further breakdown of these figures by tariff types and their corresponding installation capacity can be found in the monthly table titled 'Feed in Tariff capacity: monthly update'. This table can be accessed through the following link:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

2. The statistics presented in this table includes installations transferred from the existing renewables obligation.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Alec Shelbrooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the reduction in the feed-in tariff for solar power will apply to installations completed between 12 December 2011 and 31 March 2012. [78609]

Gregory Barker: On 31 October 2011, the Government published a consultation setting out proposed new tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) under the feed-in tariffs scheme. The consultation proposes that new tariffs will be implemented from 1 April 2012 but will apply to all new PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 12 December 2011. The eligibility date is the date on which a valid application is received by the feed-in tariff licensee, normally the applicant's electricity supplier.

Under the proposals, those with an eligibility date falling between 12 December 2011 and 31 March 2012 will receive the current tariff for that period and then move to the proposed new tariff on 1 April 2012.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 1 of his Department's consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 1—Tariffs for Solar PV, published on 31 October 2011, what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of solar PV installations which have been installed but not yet registered for feed-in tariffs. [79032]

Gregory Barker: DECC publishes monthly data on the number of small scale solar PV schemes (sub-50 kW) that have been installed and registered on the Microgeneration Certification Scheme database but have not yet been confirmed onto the FIT scheme. The table can be found on the following webpage:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

The latest data (as at 31 October 2011) indicate that there are 32,023 small scale solar (sub 50kW) PV schemes that have been installed but not yet confirmed onto the FIT scheme.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 37 of his Department's consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 1—Tariffs for Solar PV, published on 31 October 2011, whether his Department has made an estimate of the proportion of multiple PV installations that have been installed by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* housing associations, *(c)* other public sector organisations and *(d)* charitable organisations. [79034]

Gregory Barker: We do not hold the information required to answer this question.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Disease Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department carried out on the effect of *(a)* rationalisation of veterinary laboratory service sites and *(b)* the reduction in numbers of staff at such sites on (i) quality of diagnosis and (ii) speed of completion of tests during a period of (A) normal demand, (B) outbreak of a non-notifiable animal disease and (C) outbreak of a notifiable animal disease; and if she will make a statement. [78337]

Mr Paice: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency executive team initiated a review of the delivery of laboratory services across England and Wales as part of an exercise to identify additional savings that need to be made in 2012-13, while enabling the agency to continue to deliver important scientific services to Government and the livestock industry.

This review built on the recommendations of the VLA Sustainable Surveillance project which recommended that the post mortem examination of carcasses, which makes up the most valuable aspect of surveillance work, be de-coupled from the provision of laboratory services functions, removing the requirement for co-location of the two work areas.

Important disease surveillance work such as post mortems carried out at each of the 16 sites will continue and it is expected that test turnaround time will be improved.

AHVLA's ability to respond to disease outbreaks will be maintained as confirmatory tests for notifiable and non-notifiable diseases are carried out at Weybridge which is not part of the regional laboratory network.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration she has given to the public safety implications of using shooting as part of the proposed badger cull for *(a)* those taking part in the cull and *(b)* other countryside users. [77514]

Mr Paice: Controlled shooting in the field (including at night) is a method which is widely and safely used for culling a range of other mammals. To obtain a licence to carry out culling, operators would be required to demonstrate competence and attend a Government-approved training course. Safety and security would be key elements of the training.

We are also looking at what information on those taking part in a cull would need to be held and how, so that their personal safety is not compromised.

We are in discussion with the Association of Chief Police Officers and with the Home Office regarding the police response and associated costs related to the proposed badger control policy.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the effects of a badger cull using shooting on access to parts of the countryside affected by the cull; [77515]

(2) whether any footpaths or bridleways will be closed as part of the proposed badger cull using shooting. [77518]

Mr Paice: Specific licence conditions, for example those relating to shooting close to areas where there is a public right of way, will be considered on a case-by-case basis by Natural England.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had discussions with *(a)* the Ramblers Association, *(b)* the British Horse Society and *(c)* other groups involved in access to the countryside on the potential effects on them of the proposed badger cull using shooting. [77516]

Mr Paice: I have not discussed the proposed policy with the Ramblers Association or the British Horse Society. Any organisation or individual was able to submit a response to the 2010 or 2011 consultation on the policy.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has received any representations expressing concern about the policing of a badger cull. [77517]

Mr Paice: Responses to the 2010 public consultation on the proposed badger control policy raised a number of important issues. A summary of responses was published in July 2011 and is available on DEFRA's website at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tb-control-measures/index.htm

We are discussing the issue of policing of a badger cull with the Association of Chief Police Officers and with the Home Office.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to farmers of the proposed badger cull using shooting. [77520]

Mr Paice: We have estimated that farmers and landowners who apply for licences are likely to incur a cost of around £1.4 million for one 350 sq km area to carry out the culling operation (including the costs of coordination and surveying). This is based on DEFRA's estimated cost of culling—the industry believes that it can be delivered for less.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on the proposed badger cull using shooting. [77521]

Mr Paice: Bovine TB is a devolved issue; however, this disease does not respect national borders and we continue to co-operate and work closely with the Welsh Government and seek to co-ordinate activity as far as possible.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings she has had on the proposed badger cull using shooting since May 2010. [77522]

Mr Paice: Details of meetings with outside interest groups (ie any group or individuals, including lobby groups and other non-governmental organisations which have an interest in the policy of the Department) are now published on a quarterly basis. Details of all ministerial meetings up until the end of March 2011 are available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/ministers/transparency/

Since March 2011, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has met with the following organisations to discuss options for the control of TB—I was also present at the meetings as indicated.

	Name of external organisation
26 April 2011	Country Land and Business Association
26 April 2011	Badger Trust
27 April 2011	Wildlife Trusts
27 April 2011	British Veterinary Association/British Cattle Veterinary Association
28 April 2011	National Farmers Union
28 April 2011	RSPB
4 May 2011	National Trust
5 May 2011	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
5 May 2011	RSPCA
10 May 2011	Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust*
16 May 2011	British Association for Shooting and Conservation*
24 May 2011	National Farmers Union
24 May 2011	British Veterinary Association/British Cattle Veterinary Association
24 May 2011	Country Land and Business Association
25 May 2011	Association of Chief Police Officers

I also met with the following organisation to discuss options for the control of TB:

	Name of organisation
3 May 2011	Tenant Farmers Association

Departmental Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77370]

Richard Benyon: Official items lost or stolen are all recorded as 'losses'. The following table shows losses reported in Core DEFRA for the period 12 May 2010 to 25 October 2011.

Description	*Quantity*
Computers	22
Mobile telephones	3
Blackberries	15
Other IT equipment	12

All reported incidents are investigated and if theft is suspected the matter is reported to the police. Staff are advised to report losses of equipment while out of the office to the police directly as well as to their security team.

Telephone Helplines

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by her Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last five years. [77716]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave to the hon. Member for Llanelli (Nia Griffith) on 7 September 2011, *Official Report,* columns 653-54W, regarding the funding and purpose of helplines funded by DEFRA, except where updated information is available, which has been provided as follows:

The number of calls each helpline received in each year of the last five years for which figures are available is given as follows:

Core DEFRA

1. General DEFRA helpline

	Number of calls
2009	74,045
2010	62,794
Total	136,839

Figures can be provided only for the last two full years; those since the contract has been with the current service provider.

2. DEFRA farming online helpline

	Number of calls
2006 from April	5,903
2007	8,166
2008	3,266
2009	4,103
2010	8,616
Total	30,054

3. PLANET (Planning land applications of nutrients for efficiency and the environment) helpline

Allocated funding for 2011-12 is £50,000 following release of PLANET version 3

The helpline is a support mechanism for registered users of the PLANET computer-based decision support tool which helps farmers and land managers optimise their use of fertilisers and other nutrients so helping with growing of crops and avoiding over-use which can harm the environment. The helpline provides a mix of IT help for farmers while they familiarise themselves with the software and provides nutrient management advice from trained fertiliser advisers. It also handles registration for new users of PLANET and facilitates access to the software.

Period	*Number of calls*
April 2006 to March 2007	777
April 2007 to March 2008	551
April 2008 to March 2009	850
April 2009 to mid-February 2010	740
Mid-February 2010 to September 2010	[1]200
October 2010 to March 2011	550

[1] Estimated.

Figures are collated by financial year, and represent the number of recorded calls. Simple administrative queries such as requests from callers to be sent the software DVD and general questions about PLANET are not recorded.

An estimated figure is given for the period mid-February to September 2010 because precise data are currently unavailable as this represents the period when the helpline was being upgraded in preparation for the release of Planet 3 in October 2010.

Executive agencies

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency

1. PETS helpline

	Number of calls
2009	48,674
2010	46,160
Total	94,834

Figures can be provided only for the last two full years; those since the contract has been with the current service provider.

2. TSE helpline

	Number of calls
2006	247,167
2007	267,842
2008	257,515
2009	23,218
2010	10,819
Total	806,561

3. Wild bird surveillance and animal disease helpline

It is not possible at this time to provide separate figures for the animal disease helpline because it is only activated when there is a major animal disease outbreak.

Calls about animal disease (outside of the period of a major disease outbreak) and wild bird surveillance are incorporated into the general DEFRA helpline figures.

Rural Payments Agency

1. British Cattle Movement Service helpline

	Number of calls
2006	309,399
2007	270,366
2008	239,994
2009	241,480
2010	219,076
Total	1,280,315

2. Rural Payments Agency helpline

	Number of calls
2006	441,120
2007	308,128
2008	217,743
2009	279,392
2010	289,264
Total	1,535,647

The figures include helplines for the following: Single Payment Scheme, Rural Land Register, Customer Registration, Payment Receipts Information and Rural Payments Agency Online.

Non-departmental public bodies

Environment Agency

1. Environment Agency floodline

	Live agent service	*Recorded message service*
2006	73,642	82,039
2007	135,389	333,663
2008	85,447	217,028
2009	57,882	96,236
2010	40,384	55,669
Total	392,744	784,635

2. Environment Agency's national customer contact centre (NCCC)

This covers three helplines as shown in the following table.

	General inquiries	*Hazardous waste*	*Agricultural waste*
2007	82,039	78,572	57,057
2008	333,663	64,819	10,733
2009	217,028	50,047	11,182
2010	96,236	37,197	8,646
Total	784,635	230,635	87,618

Figures are not available for 2006 as the national customer contact centre retains data for a maximum of four years.

Natural England

Since a restructure on 1 April 2011, which consolidated management accountability for its helplines under a single function, Natural England has been collating precise figures on the number of calls to its helplines. It does not hold information for the number of calls received for previous years.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times her Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78079]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not record the number of times the Department's legal advisers provide advice to Ministers. Advice is provided on an ongoing basis, as and when necessary.

Lighting

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has made an assessment of the recent surveys of *(a)* nuisance lighting and *(b)* light pollution by the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the British Astronomical Association's Campaign for Dark Skies. [77582]

Richard Benyon: The Government welcome the 2011 Star Count Survey and the other activities undertaken by the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Campaign for Dark Skies to raise awareness of light pollution. Officials have not assessed the unpublished underlying data but have discussed the results with the Campaign to Protect Rural England, which show an increase in the number of people taking part who could see fewer than ten stars (from 54% in 2007 to 59% in 2011).

Animals: Disease Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average length of time is for a sample sent by post from the Veterinary Laboratory in Thirsk to be tested and the results known by the Newcastle upon Tyne Laboratory; and if she will make a statement. [77506]

Mr Paice: The AHVLA is unable to provide this information as there have not been any samples sent by the veterinary laboratory in Thirsk to be tested at the laboratory in Newcastle upon Tyne.

WALES

Charities

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representatives she has received from children's charities on levels of child poverty in Wales. [77809]

Mr David Jones: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales, and I receive regular representations from a range of organisations about matters relevant to Wales including charities.

The Government are firmly committed to the goal of eradicating child poverty in Wales and across the United Kingdom by 2020. The UK's first Child Poverty Strategy 'A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives' sets out a new approach to tackling poverty for this Parliament and up to 2020.

We must also recognise that the Welsh Government have responsibility for a number of factors that affect child poverty and have their own Child Poverty Strategy and Delivery Plan for Wales. It is important that their strategy dovetails with ours especially given that Wales continues to show levels of child poverty above the UK average.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what grants her Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79070]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in her Department; and if she will make a statement. [77487]

Mr David Jones: None.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78903]

Mr David Jones: The information requested is given in the following tables. Data for quarters 3 and 4 in 2011 are not yet finalised and will be published by the Ministry of Justice in their quarterly reports on the operation of the Freedom of Information Act. Statistics on the time taken to respond to cases over 20 working days during 2011-12 will be published in the departmental annual report.

2010

	May	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Total received	10	17	17	8	14	5	18	14
(a) Full information released	5	7	9	2	5	0	9	8
(b) Disclosed part of the information	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	2
(c) Disclosed none of the information	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0

	May	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
(i)(A) Substantive response within 20 days	10	14	17	7	12	5	16	12
(i)(B) Holding response within 20 days	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	2
(ii) No substantive response within 40 days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(iii) No substantive response yet issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2011 (to 30 June)

	January	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Total received	11	12	19	12	14	21
(a) Full information released	5	3	2	3	3	7
(b) Disclosed part of the information	1	2	0	2	2	3
(c) Disclosed none of the information	1	0	4	1	1	1

	January	*February*	*March*
(i)(A) Substantive response within 20 days	10	10	16
(i)(B) Holding response within 20 days	1	2	2
(ii) No substantive response within 40 days	0	0	0
(iii) No substantive response yet issued	0	0	0

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by her Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78904]

Mr David Jones: The information is shown in the following table.

	Number
(a) commercially sensitive information	2
(b) information not held	94
(c) too costly to provide	3

	Number
(d) vexatious or repeated requests	0

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which Minister in her Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information made under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78905]

Mr David Jones: Departmental officials would normally determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

However, the exemption under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) of the Act can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person that the exemption applies. In relation to information held by Government Departments, the qualified person must be a Minister. The Wales Office has not yet received a request where the section 36 exemption has been seen as appropriate, but would consider the most appropriate Minister when such a case is received.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) her Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by her Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78508]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office spent £4,850.25 in 2007-08, £43,501.18 in 2009-10, £27.40 in 2010-11 and £435.10 in the first six months of the current financial year on legal advice from the Treasury Solicitor.

The Wales Office has not been taken to court or had any decisions taken to a judicial review.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times her Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78514]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not keep a detailed record of all legal advice provided to Ministers. Some information could be provided but only at disproportionate cost.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times her Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78517]

Mr David Jones: None.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by her Department in the first six months of 2011. [78526]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office receives its internal legal advice from two lawyers employed by the Department. The only external legal advice it received in the first six months of this year was from the Treasury Solicitor, at a cost of £435.10.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in her Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of her Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78523]

Mr David Jones: There were 2 (1.8 full-time equivalents) lawyers working at the Wales Office in June 2011. The Wales Office has no agencies or non-departmental bodies.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78529]

Mr David Jones: The number of officials directly working at the Wales Office were as follows:

(i) 58 in 2000;

(ii) 54 in 2005;

(iii) 53 in 2007;

(iv) 56 in 2010; and

(v) as at 31 October 2011, there was a total of 51 staff.

The Wales Office has no responsibility for any non-departmental public body.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in her Department and the bodies for which she is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78511]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office had three members of staff who earned more than £65,000 in 2010-11. There were no staff who earned more than £95,000.

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by her Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78520]

Mr David Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Sector Employee Bids

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many applications from employees to run services for which her Department is directly responsible she has received since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77597]

Mr David Jones: None.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each public body for which she is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78378]

Mr David Jones: We have hosted two expenses-only work experience placements for two undergraduates during this time. We are not responsible for any public bodies.

Young Offenders

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department and *(b)* Welsh Government Ministers on youth crime. [78620]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales and I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and Welsh Government Ministers on a wide range of issues, but we have not had any recent discussions about youth crime.

We do, however, recognise the importance of tackling youth crime and indeed the Secretary of State for Wales has recently spoken at an event that celebrated the success of a programme aimed at rehabilitating young offenders and breaking the cycle of crime.

Tackling youth crime is a priority for this Government and the focus of recent work has been with areas in England who face the greatest problems. On 1 November a cross-Government report on ending gang and serious youth violence was published. This sets out the start of crucial work to tackle gang and youth violence through prevention and tough punishment.

We will work with the Welsh Government and other organisations to ensure that any good practice identified is shared across England and Wales in both devolved and non-devolved areas.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Mr Jon Moulton and (vi) Mr Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78660]

Mr Paterson: No.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78863]

Mr Paterson: No.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78527]

Mr Swire: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available for the years preceding the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010. However, there are currently 10 officials working in such organisations sponsored by my Department.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78377]

Mr Paterson: No one has been employed by my Department on this basis. However, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, which is sponsored by my Department, employed nine interns in the 2010-11 reporting year; these internships were offered on an expenses-only basis.

Foreign Relations: Republic of Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Ireland on further joint collaboration. [77571]

Mr Swire: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has regular meetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs during which there is frequent discussion about how the two Governments can work together on various issues to the benefit of Northern Ireland.

I met with the Department for Foreign Affairs most recently in Dublin on 27 October 2011.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78512]

Mr Swire: On 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparative figures are not available prior to this date.

The Northern Ireland Office receives legal support from a range of Government bodies, including the Crown Solicitor's Office for Northern Ireland, the Treasury Solicitor's Office, the Home Office Legal Advisor's Branch, and the Departmental Solicitor's Office.

Advice to Ministers reflects legal advice from these sources where appropriate. I am unable to provide specific figures because legal advice is generally incorporated into submissions prepared by officials from across the Department and analysing these could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times his Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78515]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparative figures are not available prior to this date.

The Northern Ireland Office receives legal support from a range of Government bodies, including the Crown Solicitor's Office for Northern Ireland, the Treasury Solicitor's Office, the Home Office Legal Advisor's Branch, and the Departmental Solicitor's Office. The Northern Ireland Office does not commission external legal advice itself, but in acting on behalf of the Department, these bodies may from time to time engage counsel.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78521]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office does not have its own legal section. It receives legal support from a range of Government bodies, including the Crown Solicitor's Office for Northern Ireland, the Treasury Solicitor's Office, the Home Office Legal Adviser's Branch and the Departmental Solicitor's Office.

The Northern Ireland Office does not have any agencies. It has two Executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), the Parades Commission and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. Staffing of these bodies is an operational matter on which my hon. Friend may wish to write to the bodies concerned directly.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Betting Shops: Licensing

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many betting shop premises are licensed in each local authority area; and how many such licences are currently active. [78545]

Robert Neill: The Department is not responsible for betting shop licensing. I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, on 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 476W.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79075]

Andrew Stunell: The Department's records do not differentiate between payments made to charitable organisations and other voluntary and community sector organisations. A list of payments made under section 70 of the Charities Act 2006 to charities and voluntary groups is published in the Department's annual report and resource accounts on a yearly basis.

This information will include payments made by the Department to charities in each year. Annual reports and resources accounts for each year are published on the Department's website.

Data on grants over £500 since 2008-09 are also available on my Department's website as part of our transparency initiative.

Community Relations

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the National Planning Policy Framework containing measures to safeguard the character and sustainable community of towns and villages in England. [78622]

Greg Clark: Our reforms aim to strengthen local decision making and reinforce the importance of local plans. The draft National Planning Policy Framework includes policies on the importance of responding to local character, reflecting the identity of local surroundings and planning positively for the provision for community facilities and other local services.

The 12-week consultation period closed on 17 October 2011. We have received over 14,000 responses and are now considering these. Following a process of full and careful consideration, we will publish revised text taking into account representations that have been made and a summary of responses to the consultation.

Council Tax: Swindon

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the average saving to a household in Swindon in each council tax band of the council tax freeze in 2012-13. [78392]

Robert Neill: The saving to a household in each council tax band in Swindon should the relevant authorities (Swindon Unitary Authority, Wiltshire Fire and Wiltshire Police) each choose to freeze their council tax in 2012-13 would be as follows:

	£
Band A	46
Band B	54
Band C	62
Band D	70
Band E	85
Band F	101
Band G	116
Band H	139

The savings shown are compared to an increase of 5%.

The differences in savings from the freeze are a simple reflection of the fact that higher banded homes pay more council tax.

I would note under the last Government, from 1997 to 2010, council tax bills more than doubled—across all council tax bands. This hit pensioners and others on fixed incomes the hardest. Correspondingly, the coalition Government's grant scheme to help local authorities to freeze council tax this year and next will provide significant help to those council taxpayers on low and fixed incomes.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78893]

Robert Neill: Ministers are in general not responsible for determining whether exemptions should apply to information sought in requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, although they may be consulted for their views by departmental officials. In the case of the exemption at section 36—prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs—the Act requires the opinion of a Minister of the Crown that the section is engaged with respect to the information being requested. Without that opinion, the exemption cannot apply.

Public Sector Employee Bids

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77611]

Robert Neill: My Department has not received any applications from employees to run services for which it is directly responsible since May 2010. The Government have committed that every Department will put in place Rights to Provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services. The Department has also supported the concept of an employee-led bid for the audit work being tendered by the Audit Commission and has worked with the Commission to ensure a level playing field for all potential bidders. It is encouraging that DA Partnership—which will be majority employee-owned—has been invited to tender in the next stage of the process.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77865]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government follows the guidance in the publicly available booklet Her Majesty's Government Personnel Security Controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within the Department are the subject of vetting, or who has held these posts since May 2010. Confirmation of which posts and persons are subject to vetting would highlight who within the Department has access to sensitive material and could be used for targeting purposes.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department. [77866]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government follows the guidance in the publicly available booklet Her Majesty's Government Personnel Security Controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within the Department are the subject of vetting. Confirmation of which posts are subject to vetting at what level would highlight who within the Department has access to sensitive material and could be used for targeting purposes.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77867]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government follows the guidance in the publicly available booklet 'Her Majesty's Government Personnel Security Controls', available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within the Department are the subject of vetting. The names of special advisers are published quarterly by the Cabinet Office in the Library of the House and also on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Confirmation of which posts and persons are subject to vetting would highlight who within the Department has access to sensitive material and could be used for targeting purposes.

Empty Property

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of progress on his Department's policy to return empty homes to use. [76744]

Grant Shapps: My Department has already taken a number of steps to support local action to bring empty homes back into use. Through the New Homes Bonus we have introduced a powerful new incentive scheme, for tackling empty homes. Under New Homes Bonus Government match the council tax for six years, using the national average in each band, for any empty homes that becomes a new home for somebody, with an additional amount being provided for those brought back into use as new affordable homes. In the first year alone, around 16,000 long-term empty homes were brought back into use and rewarded through the New Homes Bonus scheme, with local authorities benefiting from around £19 million additional funding as a result. I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS.

In addition, we have set aside £100 million from the Affordable Homes Programme to bring empty homes back into use as affordable housing. This funding will be available from April 2012 until March 2015 and we will shortly be publishing the detailed bidding guidance to enable both registered providers of social housing and community and voluntary groups to apply. We expect that this will generate innovative good practice as well as bringing at least 3,300 empty homes back into use.

We have also worked with the Homes and Communities Agency to launch an online Empty Homes Toolkit[1] and an interactive mapping toolkit[2] which provide information and practical advice on tackling empty homes. The Empty Homes Toolkit is the most popular resource on the agency website and is one of the top 10 most popular pages on the site.

[1] http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/news/new-toolkits-tackle-englands-734000-empty-homes

[2] This toolkit is available to local authorities.

Enterprise Zones

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have applied to set up enterprise zones and had their applications rejected. [76565]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Bids for enterprise zones were requested from Local Enterprise Partnerships. In this context, no applications were received from individual local authorities. A copy of the enterprise zone prospectus can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1872724.pdf

Housing: Construction

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of total housing need at the *(a)* upper and *(b)* lower limits of the recently published Office for National Statistics figures in projected population by 2050. [78039]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not estimate housing need. However, the Department publishes household projections, which are a trend-based view of the number of households that would form given a projected population and previous demographic trends.

Household projections are based on the sub-national population projections published by the Office for National Statistics, the most recent of which are 2008-based. The 2008-based household projections show that, by 2033, there will be a projected 27.5 million households in England, an additional 5.8 million households compared to 2008. This decreases to 26.3 million projected households in 2033 using the low population variant projection (an additional 4.6 million households compared to 2008), and increases to 28.7 million projected households in 2033 using the high population variant projection (an additional seven million households compared to 2008).

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Worcestershire

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the level of inward investment to Redditch and the West Midlands arising from steps taken by the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership. [77807]

Greg Clark: Worcestershire local enterprise partnership has stated that the two projects they are currently developing to drive business growth will bring an additional £300 million of private sector funding to the area, creating over 8,000 jobs.

Local Government Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1045W, on Local Government Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill, when he expects to bring forward the agreed amendments to the Bill; and for what reason there has been a delay in the amendments being brought forward. [77845]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* Following prioritisation of the Localism Bill, we now intend to bring forward amendments shortly.

Local Government: Internet

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the use of social media websites. [77261]

Robert Neill: The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, which local authorities have to have regard to when producing their publicity, includes guidance on hosting blogs and forums.

Local Government: Pensions

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has carried out an economic impact assessment on the effect of proposed changes to the Local Government Pensions Scheme in Stoke-on-Trent. [78245]

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on its members of his proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [78753]

Robert Neill: The detailed design of the proposals to achieve £900 million of savings in the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales by 2014-15 set out in the statutory consultation letter dated 7 October is specifically intended to minimise scheme opt-outs and protect the position of low paid, mostly part-time members. Some 20% of scheme members would pay no increased contributions under either of the Government's options and a further 33% would pay no more than a 1.2% increase, before tax relief, by 2014-15.

In due course, the appropriate impact assessments will be published to reflect the decisions reached following the conclusion of the statutory consultation process early in the new year.

Manufacturing Industries: Non-domestic Rates

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives he plans to include in any future scheme for business rates to encourage local authorities to support manufacturing industry and small businesses. [78635]

Robert Neill: The Government have consulted on their proposals to allow local authorities to benefit from the business rates paid by all businesses in their areas. They are considering responses to that consultation and will set out their decision on the proposed scheme as soon as possible.

Non-domestic Rates

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library copies of all responses to his consultation on business rates. [78636]

Robert Neill: The Government are considering responses to their consultation on the local retention of business rates and will publish a summary of those responses in due course.

Planning Permission: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations to his Department's consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework were from the Milton Keynes unitary authority district. [78202]

Greg Clark: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave today to my hon. Friend the Member for Skipton and Ripon (Julian Smith).

Planning: Skipton

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses to the consultation on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework were received from Skipton and Ripon constituency. [77660]

Greg Clark: We have received over 14,000 responses to the consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework and my Department is currently in the process of registering all of the responses. It is not possible to provide accurate information on the number of representations received from parliamentary constituencies or for other defined areas as many responses have been sent in electronic form or do not contain a full postal address.

We will give careful consideration to the responses received to inform our final decisions and we will publish a summary of responses to the consultation in due course.

Race Relations

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to take steps in response to the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the development of a race equality strategy. [79309]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are tackling the specific issues associated with racial discrimination through their single equality strategy, social mobility strategy and integration policies. The Government continue to give careful consideration to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's recommendations.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take in respect of the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and if he will make a statement. [79310]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are tackling all forms of discrimination and disadvantage through their equality, social mobility and integration policies. In the context of that we continue to consider the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's recommendations. In a year's time, the Government will provide further information to the Committee on four of their recommendations, as requested in paragraph 37 of the Committee's conclusions. The Government will also respond fully to all of Committee's recommendations in its next state report by April 2014, as requested by the Committee in paragraphs 38 and 39 of their conclusions.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had about promoting social enterprises within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77021]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government ministerial team have had many discussions both internally and with external partners regarding social enterprises since May 2010. Given that a number of these discussions were informal, ad hoc and sometimes took place as part of other meetings it would be impossible to list all of them.

However, the Department believes that community-based social enterprises have a particularly important role in supporting citizens and communities to take power into their hands and build the big society, and are vital to help grow a sustainable and dynamic economy. The Department is currently undertaking a range of actions to help support the development and maintenance of these organisations.

Through the Localism Bill we are giving communities the right to challenge to run local authority services where they believe they could do this differently or better, and to ensure that community organisations have a fair chance to bid to take over community assets important to them. This presents a greater opportunity for communities to use the social enterprise model as a method to run assets and services on a sustainable basis.

We have provided capital (grants and loans) to social enterprise-orientated organisations through the Communitybuilders Fund (which has been endowed to the Adventure Capital Fund) and other Departmental Funds. We also continue to support the Asset Transfer Unit which provides expert advice, guidance and support concerning the transfer of under-used land and buildings from the public sector to community social enterprises.

On the 3 November, I launched an action research report (commissioned from the Young Foundation) which seeks to show how local authorities can better understand and support social enterprises in their local areas. The Department is also working closely with the sector to demonstrate the value of social enterprise to the new Local Economic Partnerships. The results of this work will be published shortly.

Travellers Sites

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he plans to announce his policy on planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites; [79291]

(2) when he plans to publish the Planning Policy Statement on Gypsy and Traveller sites to replace circulars 01/2006 and 04/2007. [79292]

Robert Neill: The Government published their draft new planning policy for Traveller sites for consultation in April 2011. The consultation closed in August. We are currently analysing the responses and intend to publish a new policy as soon as possible.

Urban Areas: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bids have been received from local authorities for funding from the High Street Support Scheme; and how much funding has been disbursed to each local authority. [77997]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 490W.

JUSTICE

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* he, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78650]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Neither I nor my ministerial colleagues have attended any meetings with the individuals named above.

The Ministry of Justice does not centrally record meetings attended by all officials in the department. To collate the information requested would exceed the cost limit for answering parliamentary questions.

Birmingham Prison

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the private sector bids in the tendering process for HMP Birmingham were charged for *(a)* life supervision, *(b)* parole hearings, *(c)* programmes and *(d)* other centralised services from the National Offender Management Service. [78809]

Mr Blunt: The following approach was taken for each of the highlighted areas:

(a) Life supervision; this did not form part of the required scope of services.

(b) Parole hearings; this forms part of the scope of services, has been priced for accordingly by the private sector bidders and is deemed included in their subsequent submitted cost for delivering the contracted services.

(c) Programmes; this forms part of the scope of services, has been priced for accordingly by the private sector bidders and is deemed included in their subsequent submitted cost for delivering the contracted services.

(d) Other centralised services from the National Offender Management Service; private sector suppliers do not generally rely on any shared services being provided by NOMS so no charge is applicable. If specific services can be identified then specific can be provided.

Channel Islands

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when Ministers next plan to travel to the Channel Islands; and whether they plan to raise implementation of the *(a)* Food Supplements Directive and *(b)* Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [79051]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Lord McNally, the Minister with responsibility for the Crown Dependencies plans to visit both Jersey and Guernsey over the next 12 months.

Lord McNally has previously raised the implementation of the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation with the authorities in both Jersey and Guernsey. The Channel Islands have confirmed that they are taking the necessary steps to implement these EU Regulations in their domestic legislation at the earliest opportunity.

Christopher Shepherd

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the logs issued by Teesside Crown court in the case of Mr Christopher Shepherd for 31 March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [78212]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service has received oral requests and a written request under the Data Protection Act for the court log referring to the case of Mr Christopher Shepherd. The court log was provided.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78119]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: No Ministry of Justice non-departmental public bodies employ civil servants except the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) which, in 2007, transferred from the Home Office to the Ministry of Justice as part of machinery of Government changes. Until 1 November 2010, CICA staff were Scottish Government civil servants who transferred to the Ministry of Justice on that date.

In the financial year 2007-08, the average number of CICA staff was 416. Information is available on CICA staff at 30 June 2010 and at 31 March 2011 as part of the transparency agenda and can be accessed at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/transparency-data/senior-civil-service-salaries-and-organograms.htm

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77366]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have listed in the table the number of events that both my ministerial colleagues and I have spoken at since May 2010 in a ministerial capacity. I have not included constituency or party political engagements.

	Number
Charity events	
June 2010	1
June 2011	1
July 2011	1
October 2011	1
Civil Society Group events	
July 2010	1
October 2010	1
November 2010	3
December 2010	1
March 2011	3
May 2011	1
June 2011	1
July 2011	1
Business events	
July 2011	1
September 2011	1

Lord McNally, Minister of State

	Number
Charity events	
March 2011	1
October 2011	1
Civil Society Group events	
March 2011	4
May 2011	1
June 2011	3
July 2011	1
October 2011	3
Business events	
February 2011	1
September 2011	1
Lobbyist events	
July 2010	1
February 2011	1
March 2011	3
June 2011	1

Crispin Blunt, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

	Number
Charity events	
July 2010	1
September 2010	1
October 2010	5
December 2010	1
January 2011	1
June 2011	1
July 2011	1
September 2011	1
Civil Society Group events	
February 2011	1
Business events	
October 2010	1

Jonathan Djanogly, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

	Number
Charity events	
October 2010	1
February 2011	1
July 2011	1

Jonathan Djanogly, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

	Number
Civil Society Group events	
July 2010	
September 2010	
Nov 2010	1
March 2011	1
April 2011	1
May 2011	1
July 2011	1
September 2011	1
October 2011	1
Business events	
April 2011	1
June 2011	1
October 2011	1

The Home Office will respond for the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice.

The Ministry of Justice does not centrally record events attended by senior officials. To seek to collate this information would exceed the cost limit for answering parliamentary questions.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78382]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Over the period of the last 12 months, the Ministry does not hold a central record of the total number of persons undertaking unpaid work experience, work placements and internships. To establish this information will require an examination of locally held records and this will incur a disproportionate cost. However, the Ministry has engaged in the new Whitehall Internship programme pilot for 2011, which provided two unpaid interns for two weeks from 25 July 2011.

The Ministry of Justice is developing a policy on work experience, work placements and internships in order to meets its commitment to provide a minimum of 100 work placements during 2011-12.

Dogs Act 1871

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been subject to proceedings in a magistrates court for offences under the Dogs Act 1871 in each year since 2005. [78683]

Mr Blunt: Proceedings in the magistrates courts for offences under the Dogs Act 1871 cannot be separately identified from offences under sections 1(3) and 1(6) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1989. The available information from 2005 to 2010 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences related to dogs[1], England and Wales, 2005-10[2,3]

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*	*2010*
Total proceeded against	306	232	269	199	135	184

[1] Includes offences under:
Dogs Act 1871, section 2—Owning dangerous dog not kept under control;
Dangerous Dogs Act 1989, section 1(3)—Failing to comply with control order made under Dogs Act 1871, section 2;
Dangerous Dogs Act 1989, section 1(3)—Failing to comply with destruction order made under Dangerous Dogs Act 1989, section 1(1)(a);
Dangerous Dogs Act 1989, section 1(6)—Having custody of dog in breach of disqualification order.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Knives: Crime

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for an offence in connection with a knife in *(a)* London, *(b)* England and *(c)* each police force area in each of the last five years. [78328]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in relation to selected knife offences, by police force area in England and Wales, from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for selected offences, by police force area, England and Wales, 2006-10[1, 2, 3]

Offence/Police force area	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*	*2010*
Have a blade or article which was sharply pointed in public place, or on school premises[5]					
Avon and Somerset	214	200	169	215	198
Bedfordshire	74	81	82	90	98
Cambridgeshire	83	65	91	79	66
Cheshire	101	121	97	142	109
City of London	16	10	9	13	14
Cleveland	90	109	134	120	119
Cumbria	50	51	46	84	60
Derbyshire	94	123	71	108	98
Devon and Cornwall	138	171	171	195	173
Dorset	81	78	60	89	100
Durham	96	107	49	105	80
Essex	217	182	158	280	235
Gloucestershire	48	48	51	74	55
Greater Manchester	441	436	363	474	363
Hampshire	194	198	274	288	220
Hertfordshire	105	78	66	120	133
Humberside	135	170	135	190	134
Kent	3	2	106	170	140
Lancashire	169	176	152	222	229
Leicestershire	140	135	100	100	105
Lincolnshire	85	54	104	101	78
Merseyside	253	250	228	403	312
Metropolitan Police	2,099	1,810	2,267	2,138	1,975

Persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for selected offences, by police force area, England and Wales, 2006-10[1, 2, 3]

Offence/Police force area	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[4]*	*2009*	*2010*
Norfolk	80	96	113	114	118
North Yorkshire	70	62	42	91	92
Northamptonshire	1	3	37	95	97
Northumbria	246	318	276	393	346
Nottinghamshire	176	184	164	214	181
South Yorkshire	169	179	151	210	185
Staffordshire	111	108	61	119	122
Suffolk	123	97	43	85	64
Surrey	47	65	71	82	58
Sussex	165	165	179	206	159
Thames Valley	227	165	167	289	258
Warwickshire	38	32	59	53	35
West Mercia	124	117	93	119	128
West Midlands	469	485	472	540	411
West Yorkshire	214	227	267	300	226
Wiltshire	82	53	24	82	81
England	7,268	7,011	7,202	8,792	7,655
Dyfed-Powys	39	51	44	51	44
Gwent	74	77	59	81	72
North Wales	131	101	98	81	82
South Wales	187	164	144	237	226
Wales	431	393	345	450	424
England and Wales	7,699	7,404	7,547	9,242	8,079
Unlawful marketing of knives[6]					
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	2	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	1	1	—	—	—
England	1	1	—	2	—

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The figures presented here have been taken from the Ministry of Justices court proceedings database and are a record of the sentences passed in courts, they will differ from the figures presented in the figures published in the 'Knife Crime Sentencing—Quarterly brief' which are drawn from the Police National Computer.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[5] Offences used:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3 - Having an article with blade or point in public place
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1) & (5)(a) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1) - Having an article with blade or point on school premises

[6] Offences used:
Knives Act 1997 S.1 - Sell, hire, offer or posses knife in manner indicating/suggesting suitability for combat or stimulate/encourage violent behaviour

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many times his Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011; [78062]

(2) what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011; [78070]

(3) how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78094]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows:

(1) When seeking legal advice from external counsel the Ministry of Justice follows guidance from the Attorney-General and Treasury Solicitors:

http://www.tsol.gov.uk/attorney_generals_panel_of_counsel.htm

The Department does not keep a central record regarding the number of times legal advice is sought from external counsel and it would not be possible to differentiate between advice and representation costs without manually sifting through records and invoices for the periods above, to do so would incur disproportionate costs

(2) *(a)* The cost of supplying internal legal advice is not measured by the Department. All MOJ headquarter lawyers provide advice to different parts of the Department including the Secretary of State and Ministers as required. *(b)* The Ministry of Justice publishes information on its total legal spend in its Business Plan quarterly data summaries (QDS) in accordance with commitments made at Budget 2011 and the written ministerial statement on business plans. The purpose of the QDS data is to make more management information available to the public. The QDS provide a quarterly snapshot on how each Department is spending its budget. This information can be found on the Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/transparency-data/quarterly-data-summaries.htm

Information that is currently available on the Justice website shows that for January to March 2011, the Department's total corporate legal spend was c £8.3 million of which c £1.3 million was internal legal staff costs, the rest was external spend and includes advice and representation.

For the period April to June 2011 the Department's total corporate legal spend was c £5.9 million of which c £1.3 million were internal legal staff costs; the rest was external spend and includes advice and representation. Data for July to September are not yet available.

The figures above include costs for litigation and advice; the information is not recorded in a manner that makes extracting the cost of advice only possible.

(3) *(a)* and *(b)* As per the answers to 78062 and 78070, the Ministry of Justice does not keep a record of how many times the Department requested legal advice and instructed counsel during the periods noted and is unable to provide a breakdown of costs in this manner as this information has not been centrally recorded. However, the external legal spend costs above do include external advice and costs for counsel. The cost of extracting this specific information would be disproportionate.

(A) The Ministry of Justice does not keep a central record of how many times it has been taken to court and the outcome of each case. Treasury Solicitors represent the Department in its litigation but not all of the matters involve court proceedings. To extract this information for the periods requested would involve manually checking files for those years at a cost which would be disproportionate.

(B) The Ministry of Justice does not keep a central record of how many of its decisions have been subject to judicial review and the outcome of those reviews, however Treasury Solicitors have represented the Ministry of Justice in judicial review proceedings for each year as per the following table. The outcomes of those reviews are not recorded centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

	Number
2007-08	721
2008-09	892
2009-10	1,279
2010-11	1,388
2010-11 (April to June)	820

Magistrates Courts: Rural Areas

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which areas are defined rural for the purposes of resource allocation for magistrates' court services; and whether he plans to review those areas; [78632]

(2) what criteria his Department uses to determine whether areas should receive additional resources for magistrates' court services in recognition of the distance between workplaces. [78633]

Mr Djanogly: For the purposes of resource allocation for magistrates court services there is no set definition of rural areas. Resources are allocated on the principle of work load.

The Courts Estates Reforms Programme has been established to review the condition and utilisation of HM Courts and Tribunals Service estate. The programme has proposed some magistrate courts that could be closed, resulting in improved utilisation across other magistrates courts in England and Wales, while maintaining access to justice in the remaining courts left open.

If magistrates work load is conducted in a more rural court location, part of the allocation recognises funding for magistrates travel expenses. Additional resources for funding expense are triggered by distance.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of people *(a)* in prison, *(b)* on parole and *(c)* subject to a community order who (i) had formerly been and (ii) are members of the armed forces. [78601]

Mr Blunt: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave on 25 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 155W, to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy). No information is held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on those who might be current serving members of the armed forces.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of the level of the prison population on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes in prisons. [78780]

Mr Blunt: Despite pressure from population increase and resource constraints a broad range of rehabilitation services and interventions continue to be delivered and staff across prisons and probation are working with partners to reduce reoffending and make our communities safer.

While we are committed to evidence-based commissioning to ensure that resources are targeted as effectively as possible to continue to deliver improved outcomes for offenders and victims, my assessment is that a lower level of prison population would make the available rehabilitation programmes more effective.

Prisons: Private Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what factors arose between the publication of the Principles of Competition document in November 2009 and that of Principles of Competition document in August 2010 which led to an increase in add on costs for the competition for HMP Birmingham, Buckley Hall, Featherstone 2 and Wellingborough. [78810]

Mr Blunt: The main difference between the November 2009 and August 2010 versions of the Principles of Competition is that the former version set out the general principles as to how mark-ups would be applied rather than the specific amounts that appear in the later version. For example, the November 2009 version provides a formula that would be used to calculate the allocation of indirect costs whereas the August 2010 version states a specific percentage of 6.5%. The August version was necessary both to provide this specific detail and to use the most up-to-date figures available prior to bidders completing their pricing submissions.

Reoffenders

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders leaving prison re-offended within *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three years of release in the latest period for which figures are available. [78781]

Mr Blunt: The proven re-offending rate for adults who re-offended within one year of their release from prison between January and December 2009 is 46.8%.

Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow up. Following this one year period, a further six months is allowed for cases to progress through the courts.

In response to a consultation in late 2010 and early 2011 by the Ministry of Justice, proven re-offending rates using a two year follow up period will be published in the next Compendium of Re-offending in May 2012.

Proven re-offending rates using a three year follow up period are not available.

Restorative Justice

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the communication needs of defendants or witnesses during the restorative justice process; and what steps he is taking to support such needs. [78591]

Mr Blunt: We have not undertaken a specific assessment of the communication needs of defendants or witnesses involved in restorative justice processes.

However, in cases in which restorative justice is undertaken either following, or prior to sentencing, trained practitioners will assess the ability for both parties to fully and willingly participate in the process and provide support and reasonable adjustments to ensure processes can proceed where appropriate.

In addition, in all cases which proceed to court (including those involving restorative justice pre or post-sentence), appropriate support services are available at court to defendants or witnesses with communication needs. For example, the provision of foreign language interpreters, British Sign Language interpreters, hearing loop systems and Braille signage. Visits to courts are also available to witnesses to enable them to familiarise themselves prior to court hearings. In accordance with legislation (Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999), intermediaries are also available to those assessed as requiring assistance in their communication. Court staff, judiciary, prison and probation officers receive equality and diversity training to adequately support those people with communication needs.

A witness would be unlikely to be involved in restorative justice unless they were also the victim of the crime or significantly affected in some way by the crime committed, as restorative justice involves offenders making direct amends to the person or persons affected as a consequence of their actions.

Terrorism: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to implement the provisions of the Crime and Security Act 2010 relating to compensation for victims of terrorism overseas; and if he will make a statement. [78758]

Mr Blunt: The issue of compensation for victims of terrorism overseas is being considered alongside the Government's review of victims' services and compensation, at the conclusion of which we will publish a consultation document. We plan to make an announcement on victims of terrorism overseas at the same time as we launch the consultation.

Metal Theft

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many scrap metal merchants have been charged and convicted with receiving stolen goods in each of the last two years. [79202]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in the statute this information does not include the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to identify the defendant's occupation (such as scrap metal merchants) from this centrally held data.

Charging information is not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

SCOTLAND

Adam Werritty

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78864]

David Mundell: There have been no such meetings with Mr Adam Werritty.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78906]

David Mundell: Statistics on handling of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act by over 40 central Government bodies, including all Departments of State are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

The annual statistics cover the implementation and operation of the Act 2000 in central Government. The publication draws together the quarterly statistics for the year and analyses the longer term trends. Figures are derived from manual returns submitted by participating bodies, and cover timeliness of responses, outcomes of requests, and use of the appeal process.

The following table does not include figures beyond June 2011 as to do so would pre-empt the publication of statistics for quarters three and four of 2011. Statistics on the time taken to respond to cases over 20 working days for 2011 will be published in the annual report.

Month	FOI requests received	Responses issued: (a) Granted in full	(b) Partly withheld	(c) Fully withheld	In respect of requests received each month: (i) (A) substantive response issued within 20 working days of receipt	(i) (B) Holding response issued within 20 working days of receipt	(ii) No substantive response issued within 40 working days of receipt	(iii) No substantive response has yet been issued
2010								
May	9	3	1	1	8	1	0	0
June	16	8	1	2	13	2	1	0
July	16	6	2	2	14	0	2	0
August	6	6	0	0	6	0	0	0
September	12	3	0	7	12	0	0	0
October	20	5	0	12	20	0	0	0
November	23	9	7	1	19	4	0	0
December	4	?	0	0	4	0	0	0
2011								
January	3	2	0	0	3	0	[1]—	[1]—
February	13	8	3	0	12	1	[1]—	[1]—
March	2	1	0	0	2	0	[1]—	[1]—
April	12	7	3	0	10	2	[1]—	[1]—
May	10	6	1	0	9	0	[1]—	[1]—
June	32	13	4	2	30	2	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Not yet published

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78907]

David Mundell: Statistics on handling of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act by over 40 central Government bodies, including all Departments of State are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

The annual statistics cover the implementation and operation of the Act 2000 in central Government. The publication draws together the quarterly statistics for the year and analyses the longer-term trends. Figures are derived from manual returns submitted by participating bodies, and cover timeliness of responses, outcomes of requests and use of the appeal process.

The following table does not include figures beyond June 2011 as to do so would pre-empt the publication of statistics for quarters 3 and 4 of 2011.

	Outcomes: (a) S43 commercial interests	(b) Information not held	(c) Exceeds £600 limit	(d) Vexatious or repeated requests
2010				
January	0	3	0	0
February	0	3	1	0
March	0	2	1	0
April	0	1	0	0
May	0	4	0	0
June	0	3	0	0
July	0	3	1	0
August	0	0	0	0
September	0	2	0	0
October	0	3	0	0
November	0	8	0	0
December	0	1	0	0
2011				
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	2	0	0
March	0	1	0	0
April	0	0	0	0
May	0	2	0	0
June	0	7	2	0

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information made under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78908]

David Mundell: Scotland Office officials would normally determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act. However, the exemption under section 36, prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs, can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person that the exemption applies. In relation to information held by the Scotland Office, the qualified person must be a Minister. This is normally the Secretary of State for Scotland but either Minister may act as the qualified person regardless of where responsibility for the subject matter of the request lies.

EDUCATION

Adoption

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of failed adoption placements were in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [77680]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* Information on the number of adoptive placements which fail following the granting on an adoption order is not collected centrally.

Information is available on the outcomes of children placed for adoption at 31 March 2007. This is published as part of the Adoption and Special Guardianship data pack. This shows that 5% of children placed for adoption at 31 March 2007 had not been adopted three years later. The Adoption and Special Guardianship data pack can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/a0076713/datapack

To produce this information for years other than 2007 would incur disproportionate cost. Due to the low numbers of children involved information at local authority level could not be produced.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has provided to *(a)* the Coram Foundation and *(b)* Barnardo's to support local authorities in improving their adoption outcomes in each of the last five years; and how much his Department plans to provide to each organisation for these purposes in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [78227]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* The Department for Education is funding Barnardo's in partnership with the Coram Foundation for two years from 1 April 2011 to engage with 24 local authorities to help them improve adoption outcomes for children and the local authorities' adoption services.

£291,000 has been awarded for the first year. An indicative grant, also of £291,000 for 2012-13 is subject to parliamentary approval and successful delivery by Barnado's and the Coram Foundation of agreed grant funded activities.

The spending review 2010 is due to be examined at the mid-point. We have yet to allocate funding beyond 2012-13 (even on an indicative basis) as to do so could prejudice the outcomes of that review.

Neither organisation has received funding from the Department for Education (or its predecessor Department) in the five years prior to 2011 to support local authorities improve their adoption outcomes.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities he assesses as needing to make more effective use of the Adoption Register. [78228]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* Data from the Adoption Register shows that almost all local authorities in England use the register to find families for children in need of adoption. The challenge is to ensure that all local authorities refer all relevant children in need of adoption and approved prospective adopters to the register in good time.

In January I approved funding for a one-year pilot project, led by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, to gain a better understanding of how the register is being used, and how matching decisions are made at local level in relation to specific children. Findings from this project will inform my thinking on how the role of the register might be developed.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has provided to the British Association for Adoption and Fostering to promote adoption in each of the last five years; and how much his Department plans to provide for this purpose in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [78229]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* The Department for Education is funding the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) for two years from 1 April 2011. The grant activities include raising the profile and awareness of adoption.

£324,000 has been awarded for the first year. An indicative grant of £299,000 for 2012-13 is subject to parliamentary approval and successful delivery by BAAF of agreed grant funded activities.

The spending review 2010 is due to be examined at the mid-point. We have yet to allocate funding beyond 2012-13 (even on an indicative basis) as to do so could prejudice the outcomes of that review.

In addition to funding for the Adoption Register and Independent Review Mechanism, BAAF has received adoption-related funding from the Department for Education (and its predecessor Department) in each of the last five years as set out in the following table. Some of this funding was for raising the profile and awareness of adoption.

	£
2006-07	240,000
2007-08	270,571
2008-09	278,088
2009-10	285,831
2010-11	285,831

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what statistical assessment he has undertaken to inform the Government's strategy on adoption from care; [78480]

(2) what target he has set for the number of additional adoptions from care to satisfy the Government's objective of more children in care being adopted; [78486]

(3) what the evidential basis is for the Government's view that children currently leaving care to residency orders and special guardianship orders should instead be adopted. [78479]

Tim Loughton: The Department's data on adoption show significant local variations in the number of adoptions from care and in the timeliness of adoptive placements. The new Children in Care and Adoption Performance Tables help local authorities to compare their performance with other authorities and identify where improvements are urgently needed. They do not include targets. I want to see more children in care adopted where this is in their best interests, and I want to speed up the system so that they are adopted at a younger age. However, the child's welfare must always be the paramount consideration for local authorities when considering the most appropriate route to permanence for a child who cannot live with his or her birth parents. In some cases, a special guardianship order or a residence order may be more appropriate than adoption, for example where an older child does not wish to sever their legal ties with their birth parents.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of looked-after children were *(a)* identified for adoption and *(b)* placed for adoption by each local authority in England in each of the last five years. [77681]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 October 2011]*: Information on the number of children for whom the decision has been made that they should be placed for adoption was published in 2010 as Table E4 of the Statistical First Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2010. Table E4 shows information at national level. This information was collected for the first time in 2009. It is available via the Release's web page at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Information on the percentage of children placed for adoption in each local authority area was published as table LAA3 of the same publication.

This information will be updated for 2011 on 30 November 2011. It will take the form of two additional tables, Table E4: Children for whom the local authority has reversed the decision that the child should be placed for adoption during the year ending 31 March, and Table LAA3: Children looked after at 31 March by placement, by local authority. These will follow the recent Statistical release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011. The tables will be available on-the Release's web page at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/childrenandfamilies/a00196857/children-looked-after-by-las-in-england

Although Table E4 will be at national level in this publication we will also place a local authority level table in the House Libraries.

Children in Care

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of care leavers from each local authority in England *(a)* were not in education, employment or training, *(b)* had commenced an apprenticeship and *(c)* entered higher education in each of the last five years. [77819]

Tim Loughton: Information on the activity of care leavers from each local authority in England in each of the last five years is contained in the Statistical First Release, Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011. This was published on 28 September 2011, information on the activity of care leavers can be found in table LAF1, a coy of this has been placed in the House Libraries. The information can also be found under the Excel link "Local Authority summary tables" on the release's web page at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml

Table LAF1 shows the number and proportion of children who are *(a)* not in education, employment or training and *(c)* in higher education. Information on apprenticeships *(b)* is not collected for care leavers.

Class Sizes

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the ratio of pupils to all full-time equivalent staff was in primary schools in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* the most recent year for which data are available; [78284]

(2) what the pupil-teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) 1981, (ii) 1997 and (iii) the most recent year for which figures are available; [78326]

(3) what the average pupil to teacher ratio was in secondary schools in England in 1981. [79361]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the pupil:teacher and pupil:adult ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England for 1981, 1997 and 2010.

Pupil:teacher ratios[1, 2] in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools. Years: January 1981[3], 1997[3], 2010[3] and November 2010[4]. Coverage: England

	Pupil:teacher ratio		*Pupil:adult ratio*	
	Primary	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
January 1981	22.6	16.6	n/a	n/a
January 1997	23.4	16.7	17.9	14.5
January 2010	21.3	15.7	11.4	10.4
November 2010[5]	20.9	15.6	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

[2] For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.

[3] Source—School Census.

[4] Source—PTRs: School Census (Pupils), School Workforce Census (FTE qualified teachers). PARS: School Census (Pupils and FTE all teachers and support staff employed in schools excluding administrative and clerical staff).

[5] November 2010 figures are calculated using the most current figures eg January 2011 pupil numbers and November 2010 teacher numbers. Previous years are calculated using January figures for both pupils and teachers.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77500]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* To get information on the number of full-time equivalent staff employed on consultancy contracts in the Department could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I can tell the hon. Genleman that as a result of spending controls introduced into the Department in 2010, consultancy spend fell by 76% in the first six months of 2011/12 compared to the same period in 2010/11 and continues to fall.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77410]

Tim Loughton: A breakdown of reported lost or stolen IT equipment from the Department for Education in the 18 month period from 1 May 2010 to 27 October 2011 is provided as follows. Figures for the previous 18 months are also given for comparison.

	From 1 May 2010 to 27 October 2011			*From 1 January 2009 to 30 April 2010*		
	Lost	*Stolen*	*Total*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Total*
Laptop computers	0	7	7	2	5	7
Mobile phone	3	0	3	1	0	1
BlackBerry	11	8	19	14	9	23
Memory Stick	10	0	10	3	0	3
Signify Token	4	0	4	0	0	0
Total	28	15	43	20	14	34

Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [74998]

Tim Loughton: Based on its financial systems, the Department spent £67,365 on newspapers periodicals and trade professions magazines in 2010-11. This is a significant reduction when compared to spend of £92,917 in 2009-10, £123,951 in 2008-09 and £123,836 in 2007-08.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77895]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department; [77896]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77897]

Tim Loughton: Information on levels of security vetting is available in HMG Personnel Security Controls booklet on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

This booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

The names of special advisers are published quarterly by Cabinet Office and can be found at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77899]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education confirms that no security passes have been allocated at its main headquarter buildings in Darlington, London, Runcorn or Sheffield to non-DFE staff or contractors for the period from May 2010 to October 2011.

English Baccalaureate

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate on the take-up of subjects not included in its scope. [78638]

Mr Gibb: The Department has commissioned research on the impact of the English Baccalaureate which suggests that schools and pupils are making sensible GCSE subject choices. The survey, carried out with nearly 700 schools, suggests that English Baccalaureate subjects are being opened up to many more pupils, reversing declines in entries to languages, history and geography. It also indicates that more than half of the pupils who were starting key stage 4 from September have chosen to follow a set of subjects which will not lead to the English Baccalaureate. We will continue to monitor the impact of the English Baccalaureate on other subjects, including through review of GCSE entries in 2012.

We will also be opening up access to datasets which will enable parents and others to carry out their own assessment of schools' success in the areas they are interested in; this will allow them to monitor performance in subjects not included in the English Baccalaureate.

English Baccalaureate: Chinese Language

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether Chinese will be included as a Modern Foreign Language option in the English Baccalaureate. [77799]

Mr Gibb: All full course GCSEs and AS Levels in Chinese which are regulated by Ofqual and currently available can be taken by pupils as part of the English Baccalaureate. These qualifications are:

AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Chinese (Mandarin) (500/4491/6)

Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Chinese (500/4672/X)

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chinese (500/2666/5).

GCSE

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in how many secondary schools over 80% of children achieved at least five GCSEs at A* to C, including English and mathematics. [75254]

Mr Gibb: In 2010, there were 576 secondary schools in which over 80% of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C or equivalent including English and mathematics. This includes both state-funded and independent secondary schools. Only iGCSEs that have been approved for use in maintained schools are included in this measure.

Schools with 10 or fewer pupils at the end of key stage 4 are excluded.

Source:

Secondary School Performance Tables.

Music: Education

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken following the review of music education to *(a)* maximise the benefits of music education in schools and *(b)* support schools to manage budgets for music education and maximise value for money since March 2011. [78989]

Mr Gibb: We will shortly publish a National Plan for Music Education, which will reform the delivery and funding of music education. It will ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn an instrument, learn to sing, have opportunities to play in ensembles and have access to musical progression routes regardless of where they live and their family circumstances. The needs of the pupil will be at the heart of the plan. Through it, the Government will signal their commitment to ensuring that all pupils have access to high quality music education.

New Schools Network

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many employees of his Department have previously worked for New Schools Network. [72315]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not keep a record of its employee's previous employment history.

Pupils: Bullying

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to page 8 of his Department's guidance, Preventing and Tackling Bullying Advice for School Leaders, staff and Governing Bodies, when he plans to update the website to provide links to further information and organisations on transgender and other issues; and if he will add the Gender Identity Research and Education Society to the organisations listed under LGBT in the guidance and insert a link to the society's guidance on assisting schools to combat transphobic bullying. [77636]

Mr Gibb: This Government are committed to tackling bullying of all forms, particularly prejudice-based bullying. We want to support schools to deal effectively with bullying, while also reducing bureaucratic burdens and the amount of guidance from central Government. One of the aims of the anti-bullying advice is to signpost schools to key specialist organisations who could provide further advice and support. In doing so, we cannot list every organisation. We have listed those that we believe will be useful for the greatest number of schools. Transphobic bullying is an issue which directly affects a relatively small number of schools, so we have not included any organisations which specialise in that issue. GIRES is, however, a member of the Anti-Bullying Alliance—an umbrella organisation listed in our guidance. If schools identify transgender-related bullying issues, the ABA can signpost them in turn to GIRES or another specialist transgender organisation.

Schools: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answers of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 315W, on schools: assessment, 20 July 2001, official report, column 2015W, on CSE and 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1024W, on GCE O-level, what information his Department holds on *(a)* subjects studied and *(b)* examinations taken in secondary schools prior to the introduction of GCSEs. [72945]

Mr Gibb: Until 1988, the attainment of school leavers was assessed via a survey which was sent to all secondary schools in England with pupils of school leaving age (excluding special schools, independent schools and international schools). The results were published in the report "Statistics of Education: School Leavers, CSE and GCE".

These reports contain a range of statistics covering examination attempts and achievements by gender, type of school and subject groupings; and the destinations of school leavers. These reports are available in the House Libraries.

Schools: Dogs

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1174W, on schools: dogs, whether his Department has a policy on allowing dogs into school classrooms where children or teachers with allergic conditions may be present. [77525]

Mr Gibb: Allowing, or disallowing, dogs into classrooms or, indeed, any parts of a school where pupils or staff with allergies may be present, is for schools to determine. The Department for Education does not have a specific policy on this. There could be good reasons to have dogs or other animals in school, for instance to support the teaching of biology, the study of life and living organisms. As I stated in my answer of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1174W, we would expect schools to take common sense steps to protect the health and safety of all in the school. Detailed advice on the care of animals in school and of people who may come into contact with them is provided by the Consortium of Local Authorities Provision of Science Services via their helpline on 01895 251496 or the following website:

http://www.cleapss.org.uk/

Schools: ICT

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to promote the use of new technology in schools to assist with teaching and learning. [77421]

Mr Gibb: Schools are best placed to make decisions on how to use technology to support good teaching and help raise educational standards. The role of Government is to encourage schools to take better advantage of opportunities presented by digital technologies to engage pupils, improve teaching and deliver education more effectively, but not seek to micromanage how they do this. The Department is already working to ensure schools achieve value for money when purchasing technology through the development of procurement frameworks, national pricing agreements and other mechanisms. We are also working with industry to agree data standards for educational systems. Information and communications technology within the national curriculum will be considered as part of the national curriculum review

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funds are available to schools that wish to invest in new technology to assist with teaching and learning. [77422]

Mr Gibb: Schools are best placed to make decisions about how to use the resources available to them—including technology. They have the freedom to select and purchase technology and services to meet their needs from their revenue funding under the Dedicated Schools Grant and their Devolved Formula Capital funding. The Department provides support for achieving best value in purchasing technology through its national procurement arrangements.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* schools and *(b)* the technology sector on opportunities for schools to invest in new technologies to assist with teaching and learning. [77423]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Ministers regularly meet with industry and school representatives. The Department has held a number of meetings with interested parties around technology in schools including industry bodies such as the British Educational Suppliers Association and Intellect, individual companies, school leaders, and head teacher unions.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had about promoting social enterprises within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77023]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* The information requested is not collated centrally and to collect it would incur disproportionate cost. However, this Department supports social enterprises in a range of ways: for example, we are funding our voluntary sector strategic partners, which include Social Enterprise UK as consortia members, to build capacity in the sector and to strengthen a social enterprise approach.

Teachers

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the turnover of teaching staff in maintained secondary schools with *(a)* high numbers of children eligible for free school meals and *(b)* low numbers of children eligible for free school meals; [78283]

(2) what proportion of teachers in maintained secondary schools with *(a)* more than 20 per cent. and *(b)* fewer than 10 per cent. of children eligible for free school meals hold a degree in each degree class. [78334]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Pensions

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason his Department has not carried out a valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme since 2007; what legal requirement there is to carry out such a valuation; and on what his Department's estimate of the affordability of such a scheme can be made in the absence of a recent valuation. [77583]

Mr Gibb: The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011, but valuations remain on hold. Valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and other factors. Many of these are currently under review as part of the Government's proposed reforms of the public sector pension schemes. The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 require the scheme's actuary to carry out a valuation of the scheme at intervals of no more than four years but the actuary cannot do so until the Department and HM Treasury have set out the funding methodology, which will not be determined until the future structure of the pension scheme is clear.

Although valuations have not been carried out for any public sector schemes, the costs of the Government's proposed reforms of public sector pension schemes have been calculated by the Government Actuary's

Department using data and assumptions that have been shared and discussed with unions.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the number of teachers likely to opt out of the Teachers' Pension scheme, if contributions rise to 9.8% of salary; what estimate he has made of the proportion of contributors to that scheme who must continue to participate in order to prevent it ceasing to be viable; and if he will make a statement. [77584]

Mr Gibb: At the spending review, the Office for Budget Responsibility assumed that some additional members, amounting to 1% of the value of the paybill, would opt-out of all the public service schemes as a result of the proposed increase in pension contributions.

The Department is currently considering responses to its consultation on the proposed increase to contributions for members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS), which sought views of consultees on how the contributions increase could be implemented in a way that delivered the Government's commitment to minimise the number of teachers opting out of the scheme. The Government believe that the rate of opt-out from the TPS will remain very low following the increase in pension contributions and that it will not threaten the viability of the scheme.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the evidential basis is for his Department's assessment that the Teachers' Pension Scheme has become unaffordable since the 2007 settlement. [77585]

Mr Gibb: The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, chaired by Lord Hutton, was invited by my right hon. Friends the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to conduct a fundamental structural review of public service pension provision and to make recommendations on pension arrangements that are sustainable and affordable in the long term, fair to both the public service work force and the taxpayer and consistent with the fiscal challenges ahead, while protecting accrued rights.

In making his recommendations on pension reform, Lord Hutton considered the reforms already made to the public service pension schemes—in 2007 in the case of the Teachers' Pension Scheme—and while he acknowledged that savings had been achieved, he pointed out that the cost of public service pensions had increased by around a third because of longer life expectancy over the last 50 years. As a result, cash expenditure on paying pensions to public service pensioners had increased to £32 billion over the last decade. Against this background, Lord Hutton concluded that there is a clear case for further reform of public service pension schemes, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of teachers who will cease making pension contributions following the planned increase in contributions. [77693]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* At the spending review, the Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that some additional members, amounting to 1% of the value of the paybill, would opt-out of all the public service schemes as a result of the proposed increase in pension contributions.

A consultation on the proposed increase to contributions for members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme in 2012-13 was recently concluded and the Department is considering all responses received prior to the deadline. The Government are committed to implementing the contributions increase in a way which will protect the lower paid from the full impact of the changes and will therefore reduce the risk of increased opt-outs from the scheme.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish a valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [77783]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011, however, valuations remain on hold. Valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and other factors. Many of these are currently under review as part of discussions on implementing Lord Hutton's proposals. A decision on when to undertake the next valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme will be taken in due course.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects the valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme to be published. [79148]

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will undertake and publish a full economic valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [78762]

Mr Gibb: The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011, but valuations remain on hold. Valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and other factors. Many of these are currently under review as part of the Government's proposed reforms of the public sector pension schemes. A decision on when to undertake the next valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme will be taken in due course.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Knife Crime

22. **Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of knife crime. [78460]

Nick Herbert: In the 12 months to June 2011, data collected by police forces in England and Wales indicate that 7% of relevant violent offences involved the use of a knife or a sharp instrument.

Net Migration

23. **Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she is making in reducing net migration. [78461]

Damian Green: We are committed to reducing net migration to the levels of the 1990s—tens of thousands, not hundreds of thousands.

We have already introduced an annual limit on the number of non-EU workers; overhauled the student route; and increased enforcement activity.

As the right hon. Gentleman recognised in an article last week, the next steps are to break the link between temporary and permanent migration by restricting settlement rights and to tighten rules on family migration.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to combat anti-Semitism since July 2010; and if she will make a statement. [R] [78749]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism co-ordinates all Government's work on this issue. The Government's latest response is the 'Three Years on Progress Report', copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

More recently the working group has focused on addressing hate material on the internet and anti-Semitism and political tensions on campus.

Antisocial Behaviour

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish her Department's response to its consultation, More effective responses to antisocial behaviour. [78397]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has received over 1,000 written responses to the consultation from the police and other front-line professionals, members of the judiciary, local authorities, interest groups and members of the public. We want to ensure that our proposals reflect that wealth of knowledge and expertise, and will publish our response in due course.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from police constables on increasing police powers to deal with individuals who are causing antisocial behaviour. [78398]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office regularly receives representations from police constables and other front-line professionals on the need for more effective powers to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Cannabis

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to decriminalise high-THC cannabis *(a)* use and *(b)* production; and if she will make a statement. [78773]

James Brokenshire: We have no plans to decriminalise cannabis or any other drug subject to control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Civil Disorder

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* level 1 and *(b)* level 2 trained public order officers were available to the Metropolitan police in each year from 1999 to the latest year for which figures are available. [78157]

Nick Herbert: Information on the number of level 1 and level 2 public order trained police officers is not collected centrally by the Home Office. Level 1 and level 2 training is a local resource management issue for chief constables working with their police authorities and, from November 2012, their elected police and crime commissioners (PCCs).

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested at the scene and *(b)* arrested at a later stage in connection with the public disorder of August 2011. [78204]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Deportation: Offenders

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report by the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency entitled A thematic inspection of how the UK Border Agency manages foreign national prisoners, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of immigration detainees held for over 12 months. [78793]

Damian Green: The majority of immigration detainees held for more than 12 months are foreign national offenders who are liable to be deported from the United Kingdom. There is no presumption to detain in such cases and our powers only allow us to detain for as long as there is a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable timescale. Our policy does however take into account the imperative to protect the public from foreign nationals who have offended in the UK and are liable to deportation. For this reason, proximity of removal, risk of reoffending (based on National Offender Management Service assessments) and risk of absconding are all taken into account at the point at which the detention decision is made.

The courts have found that it may be lawful to prolong detention in cases where there is a risk to the public, a risk of the person absconding, or where the individual's own lack of co-operation is a determinative factor preventing removal. We do however review detention every 28 days to assess whether it remains lawful and appropriate.

We have also put in place a package of measures to improve the quality of detention decisions and documentation. For example a training package has been designed for caseworkers, focusing on the legal powers and purpose of detention, progression of cases between reviews and the personal responsibilities of case owners. The detention review template and guidance have also been revised to better support caseworkers in making evidence-based detention decisions and demonstrating progress since the last detention review.

A review of authority levels for the detention and release of foreign national offenders is also under way.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in her Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of Government business. [73209]

Damian Green: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

Entry Clearances

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the transferability between companies of work permits for immigrants from outside the EU. [78249]

Damian Green: The work permit scheme closed to new employees in 2008. Since November 2008, migrants wishing to work here must be issued with a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) by an employer who is registered with the UK Border Agency as a sponsor under tiers 2 or 5 of the points based system. CoS cannot be transferred between companies.

Migrants from outside the EU with permission to work either under the previous work permit system or under tier 2 or 5 are able to change employer providing the new employer is registered as a sponsor with the UK Border Agency, is willing to issue the migrant with a CoS and any necessary resident labour market test has been undertaken. The migrant must apply for, and be granted, leave to remain before starting the new job.

Forensic Science Service

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the closure of the Forensic Science Service on the provision of forensic science services. [78443]

James Brokenshire: The orderly wind-down of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) has enabled a significant proportion of their work to be safely transferred to alternative forensic service providers and the transition is on schedule to complete by 31 March 2012.

We remain confident that the orderly wind-down of FSS will ensure the police, and the criminal justice system as a whole, continue to have the forensics capability that they need to protect the public and bring criminals to justice.

Human Trafficking

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls were received by *(a)* the Metropolitan police's trafficking victim helpline and *(b)* the UK Human Trafficking Centre's victim helpline in October 2011. [78546]

Nick Herbert: The Metropolitan police's trafficking victim helpline received one call in October 2011.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) does not have a victim helpline. The public number for the UKHTC is for all inquiries, referrals to the National Referral Mechanism and operational and tactical advice on any human trafficking related matters. A 24/7 tactical advice capability is also available from this number.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to provide safe homes for *(a)* adult and *(b)* child victims of human trafficking. [78841]

Damian Green: We have introduced a new model for supporting adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales, which provides accommodation and support tailored to the needs of individual victims. In its capacity as prime contractor under this new model, the Salvation Army has contracted with various organisations to deliver a range of support to meet the diverse needs of victims. This provision includes safe houses across England and Wales. Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Children Act 2004 to safeguard and promote the welfare of any child in need. Each child in local authority care is allocated a social worker who assesses their needs and draws up a care plan which sets out how the authority intends to respond to the full range of the child's needs.

For children who may have been trafficked, the social worker's assessment should identify the child's vulnerability to the continuing control of his or her traffickers. The local authority should then place the child with a carer (foster or residential) who has the necessary skills and experience to support them in a safe environment.

Human Trafficking: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on separated and trafficked children in Northern Ireland. [78233]

Damian Green: We work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure a joined up approach to tackling human trafficking across the UK. The Northern Ireland Executive is a member of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on human trafficking which brings together the devolved Administrations and key departments across government. The group provides oversight of the UK's anti-trafficking work, including implementation of the Government's human trafficking strategy and its associated actions in relation to trafficked children.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 19 September 2011 to the Prime Minister, transferred to her Department for answer, reference M17334/11. [78732]

James Brokenshire: I wrote to the hon. Member on 1 November 2011.

Nature Conservation: Crime

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mandate the National Crime Agency will have to deal with wildlife crime. [78384]

James Brokenshire: The National Crime Agency (NCA) Plan sets out the Government's plan for the scope and functionality of the NCA. The NCA Plan can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/nca-creation-plan

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police officers from forces outside London will be allowed to wear their own constabulary uniforms when policing for the London 2012 Olympics. [78386]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* General patrol officers serving outside their local force area under mutual aid arrangements will normally wear their normal uniform issued by their own force. Officers who are being used for more specialist roles will wear the appropriate clothing for that role. There are no plans to change these arrangements specifically for the policing of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Seized Articles: Landfill

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the quantity of goods confiscated by police forces that end up in landfill. [77999]

Nick Herbert: The Department has made no such assessment.

Young Offenders: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with Welsh Government Ministers on *(a)* gangs and youth violence and *(b)* youth crime in Wales. [78619]

James Brokenshire: I have not had any recent discussions with Welsh Government Ministers specifically on gangs, youth violence or youth crime. The focus of recent work has been with areas in England who face the greatest problems. The Government will ensure that any good practice identified is shared across England and Wales.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 1 November 2011, on gang-related violence, which areas in Wales she proposes will receive funding to tackle gang and youth violence; and what the overall budget is that will be devolved to the Welsh Government for this specific purpose. [78730]

James Brokenshire: The areas will be selected using a combination of serious violence measures and local intelligence about gang problems. The selection is being informed by an Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) exercise to map gangs and gang violence in forces across the country. The areas participating in the programme will be identified by the end of the year.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Weather

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of airport operators' preparedness for extreme winter weather conditions. [76502]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have engaged with airport operators to discuss the lessons learned from last winter's severe weather and the measures they have put in place to improve their response to future similar events. The Civil Aviation Authority is monitoring airport operators' progress in improving their resilience.

Aviation: Security

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish the final Code of Practice for the Acceptable Use of Advanced Imaging Technology (Body Scanners) in an Aviation Security Environment; and whether the code will include guidance on whether passengers should be allowed to submit themselves to other forms of enhanced search if they object to the use of a full body scanner. [77635]

Mrs Villiers: In addition to the analysis of the responses to the public consultation, there is a parallel European legislative process which we need to take into consideration before our final response to the consultation is published. The Government's security scanner policy is still under consideration and we will publish the responses to the consultation and the final code of practice in due course.

Procurement

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to ensure that its procurement can support domestic *(a)* transport manufacturing industry and *(b)* supply chains. [75182]

Norman Baker: An assessment of public procurement tendering is being undertaken as part of the Growth Review, which will inform how the Department can support the domestic transport manufacturing industry and the domestic supply chains. It is intended that the outcome of this assessment will be announced at the end of November.

Harbour Authorities

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 979W, on harbour authorities, what steps her Department takes to assess the performance of competent harbour authorities; and what process her Department would follow in the event that a competent harbour authority is found to have failed to maintain the standards required under section 3 (2) of the Pilotage Act 1987. [77949]

Mike Penning: None. Competent harbour authorities are responsible for their own performance in determining the qualifications for persons that they authorise to act as pilots within their operational area.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 978W, on harbour authorities, what meetings have been held with each competent harbour authority since May 2010; and what the purpose was of each meeting between her Department and representatives of competent harbour authorities. [77950]

Mike Penning: There are roundly 130 competent harbour authorities with whom Ministers and officials might meet in the normal course of departmental business. Therefore, I regret that the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Motorways: Accidents

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate the Transport Research Laboratory has provided to her Department's Road Safety Division of the likely change in the number of *(a)* lives lost, *(b)* serious and *(c)* slight casualties which would result from increasing the motorway speed limit to 80 mph and improving compliance using average speed cameras in the last three years. [71937]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: The Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) published their report 'An evaluation of options for road safety beyond 2010' in 2009 on their website at:

http://www.trl.co.uk/online_store/reports_publications/trl_reports/cat_road_user_safety/report_an_evaluation_of_options_for_road_safety_beyond_2010.htm

The Department is currently conducting a more sophisticated and comprehensive analysis of all the principal effects of raising the motorway speed limit and will include these estimates as part of the documentation for the consultation planned for later this year.

Ports

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons she no longer issues statements when she appoints trust port board members or authorises an extension in terms for such members; and if she will make it her policy to publish such appointments until such time as the trust port concerned ceases to be her responsibility. [74152]

Mike Penning: Trust ports are independent statutory bodies and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has the right to appoint board members to a number of trust ports. It is for the individual trust port to publicise such appointments.

Railways: Electricity

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department has undertaken on the costs and benefits of replacing third rail systems with overhead electrical systems. [78346]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 November 2011]*: The Department participated in a recent cross-industry research project that assessed the costs and benefits of replacing the 750V DC third rail electrified system with a 25kV AC overhead system. A summary of the research results is available at:

www.rssb.co.uk/sitecollectiondocuments/pdf/reports/research/T950_rb_final.pdf

The research concluded that converting the third rail network to an overhead system would deliver a range of benefits. These include lower running costs, greater resilience to snow and ice, increased train performance and the capacity to run more services. However, the cost of such a conversion would be significant, at around £3-4 billion. Network Rail is now taking forward a more detailed assessment of the costs and benefits.

Rescue Services

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to finalise the contract for search and rescue helicopters; and if she will make a statement. [78498]

Mike Penning: We are considering a range of potential procurement options to meet future requirements for helicopter search and rescue in the UK, and intend to make a statement on the matter before the end of the year.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on potential long-term procurement options for search and rescue helicopters; and if she will make a statement. [78499]

Mike Penning: Discussions between the Department for Transport and the Ministry of Defence are ongoing regarding a range of potential options to meet future requirements for helicopter search and rescue in the UK. We intend to make a statement on the matter before the end of the year.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether officials in her Department have had recent discussions with *(a)* the Home Office and *(b)* the Highways Agency on reducing the time taken to clear major roads following an incident; and if she will make a statement. [76534]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 24 October 2011]*: Officials from the Department for Transport have held recent discussions on reducing the time taken to clear motorways following an incident with the Home Office, the Highways Agency and representatives of the emergency services.

Shipping: Oil

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ship-to-ship transfers have taken place within territorial waters *(a)* off the Southwold coast and *(b)* in any other harbour in the last 12 months. [76886]

Mike Penning: The total number of ship-to-ship transfers that have taken place off the Southwold coast in the last 12 months (from 24 October 2010 to 24 October 2011) was 153.

Ship-to-ship transfers are routinely carried out in UK ports and harbours which have a suitable oil pollution emergency plan under the terms of the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency does not collate statistics on that activity.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has reviewed its oil recovery plans in the light of the recent oil spill from the Rena off New Zealand. [76885]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency will shortly commence a review of the UK's National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (NCP). This periodic review will involve full consultation with UK interested parties, and will take account of lessons learnt from previous incidents in the UK and elsewhere.

Shipping: Safety

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effects of a temporary disabling of the global positioning system on fishing vessels, merchant vessels and recreational boats. [74175]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 October 2011]:* The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has co-operated with Government Departments and the Trinity House Lighthouse Service in the conduct of trials to determine the effects of Global Positioning System (GPS) jamming. It was found that simple and widely available jammers can disrupt the very low strength GPS signals received in surface vessels. The loss or denial of GPS signals is normally shown to the mariner through an alarm on the equipment in use. Losing GPS position information means that the mariner must use the other means available to them to determine their position. These means vary by vessel location and the equipment carried.

However, the Department for Transport and the MCA have not made any specific assessments of the potential effects of a temporary disabling of GPS on fishing vessels, merchant vessels and recreational boats in Scottish waters.

Operationally, if the jamming authority informs the Department of the temporary disabling of GPS, the information is passed to Her Majesty's Coastguard who arrange for the UK Hydrographic Office to issue the appropriate radio navigation warnings to seafarers.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had on promoting social enterprises in the area for which her Department is responsible in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77328]

Norman Baker: Ministers and officials frequently engage with the community transport sector, including the Community Transport Association (CTA), a representative body. This partnership has led to a four-year funding agreement which will see us working together to build capacity in the sector and promote a more sustainable business model.

For example, the Department part funds the CTA's Rural Social Enterprise Programme, which is helping eight community transport organisations in rural areas to become social enterprises. The learning from this will help the wider sector become more sustainable and less reliant on grant funding.

In March this year, I announced an additional £10 million funding package, which has been distributed to rural local authorities, with the aim of kick-starting and supporting community transport.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78089]

Chris Grayling: Legal Services in the Department for Work and Pensions provide legal advice and services to the Department and the Department of Health, for which they are fully reimbursed.

The total number of officials working in the Legal Services in June 2011 was 335 individuals (309.46 full-time equivalent staff). Of these 86 individuals (78.83 full-time equivalent) provide services to the Department of Health.

The number of officials working in non-departmental bodies is 67 individuals (65.36 full-time equivalent).

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78114]

Chris Grayling: The answer to *(a)* and *(b)* is contained in the following table. Orders made by statutory instrument have been counted separately.

	SIs issued	*Of which: included Orders:*
1990	81	14
1995	80	20
1999	89	24
2000	106	20
2001	107	34
2002	99	28
2003	95	23
2004	73	17
2005	164	35
2006	113	36

	SIs issued	*Of which: included Orders:*
2007	87	31
2008	118	42
2009	94	40
2010	106	35
2011 (to date)	61	24

No records exist of secondary legislation made other than by statutory instrument for the years 1990, 1995, 1999 to date. It is believed that such pieces of secondary legislation would have been few in number.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77850]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department; [77851]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77852]

(4) what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77853]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the booklet "HMG Personnel Security Controls", available from the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

This booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate for me to confirm which specific posts are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who has access to sensitive material and this could be used for targeting purposes.

A list of all special advisers is published quarterly by the Cabinet Office and is also available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

In addition, DWP has appointed two temporary civil servants as expert policy advisers.

All appropriate clearances for permanent civil servants, special advisers and expert policy advisers are undertaken in partnership with Defence Business Services National Security Vetting, formerly know as the Defence Vetting Agency.

Employment and Support Allowance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters on possible changes to employment and support allowance his Department has sent out; and at what cost to the public purse. [78547]

Chris Grayling: From 19 September 2011, over a period of four weeks, the Department issued around 115,000 letters to existing claimants in receipt of contribution based employment and support allowance in the Work Related Activity Group. Activity is still ongoing to answer claimant queries resulting from this notification therefore we do not have the total costs at present but these will be made available by the end of November.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance claimants there were in South West Bedfordshire constituency on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78733]

Maria Miller: The information requested is given as follows.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants in south west Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency, February 2011

	South West Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency
IB/SDA	2,180
ESA	830

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2, Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.
3. Data includes claimants receiving credits only.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament 2010.
5. These data are available on the Department's Tabulation Tool at the following link:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Jobcentre Plus: Merseyside

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to reduce Jobcentre *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices in Merseyside. [79142]

Chris Grayling: Focusing specifically on the Jobcentre part of DWP operations delivering local services, we announced last week our plans to close 19 small Jobcentres in the vicinity of other Jobcentres that were offering a full range of services, this did not include any Jobcentres in Merseyside. The spending review 2010 announced that DWP would deliver 26% savings in real terms from its core budget over the four year period to 2015. Operational parts of DWP, including the Jobcentre network across the country and in Merseyside, will contribute to these savings by driving up efficiency in the way it works through more use of its online services and implementing ideas that help improve processes and productivity. Where this results in the need to reduce jobs we will do this through normal turnover where possible. There are no plans above this to reduce staffing levels in Merseyside but as with other parts of the country we will continue to review workloads and staffing levels which may result in the need for staff to be flexible in how we deliver services to customers.

PAYE: Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether real time PAYE information will be collected from every firm employing staff in each local authority area prior to universal credit being rolled out as part of the third phase in his planned transition. [79272]

Chris Grayling: Practically all employers who administer PAYE will be on RTI by October 2013. Details of the migration of employers to Real Time Information (RTI) are not based on local authorities or regions.

Employer migration focuses primarily on large employers first to achieve highest volumes. In universal credit we are working closely with HMRC to understand how they will bring employers in to RTI and as their alignment and on boarding progresses we will work together to make the best use of RTI automation opportunities to calculate universal credit.

Pensions: Teachers

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect of his planned change of indexation from the retail prices index to the consumer prices index on the value of the Teachers' Pension scheme; what his policy is on the continued application of the triple lock commitment to the annual updating of the basic state pension; and if he will make a statement. [77586]

Steve Webb: Next year's proposed benefit rates will be announced to Parliament by ministerial statement later in the autumn.

Her Majesty's Treasury has responsibility for the policy and reform of public service pensions.

The Government remain committed to the triple guarantee to increase the basic state pension the higher of growth in average earnings, prices (CPI) or 2.5% each year. This will help provide a more solid financial foundation for pensioners from the state.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits are available to support severely disabled people living independently. [78612]

Maria Miller: Disability living allowance or attendance allowance are non-means tested social security benefits which can support severely disabled people living independently depending on the conditions of entitlement being satisfied.

Severely disabled people also have access to the means-tested income replacement benefits such as employment and support allowance, income support, incapacity benefit or jobseeker's allowance, subject to the requirements of the benefits being met.

There are also a range of benefits that are related to entitlement to disability living allowance or attendance allowance. I have placed this information in the House of Commons Library.

Social Security Benefits

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people he expects to be affected by the introduction of a cap on the overall level of benefits in each *(a)* nation, *(b)* region, *(c)* local authority area and *(d)* parliamentary constituency. [77998]

Chris Grayling: We published an impact assessment for the introduction of the benefit cap on 16 February 2011. It can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

It estimates that, if the benefit cap were applied in full, around 50,000 households in Great Britain will have their benefits reduced by the policy. Sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for areas smaller than the overall impacts for Great Britain.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the causes of the change in the level of benefit off-flow since May 2011; and whether he expects the level to return to its previous level. [78627]

Chris Grayling: Published figures for outflows from benefits since May 2011 are currently available only for the claimant count (jobseeker's allowance) which have followed a broadly flat trend. We continually assess all the Departments' employment programmes to ensure that they are working effectively.

Unemployment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the level of long-term unemployment in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Dudley borough. [78300]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what assessment he has made of the level of long-term unemployment in (a) England, (b) the West Midlands and (c) Dudley Borough. (78300)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of long-term unemployment for Dudley Borough are unavailable.

As an alternative, in Table 1, we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), for over 52 weeks. For consistency reasons we have also supplied data for the West Midlands and England on this basis.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people[1] claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months or more resident in England, West Midlands and Dudley borough in September 2011

	Number
England	200,930
West Midlands	30,250
Dudley borough	2,410

[1] Computerised claims only. These account for approximately 99.7% of all claims.
Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how he plans to determine which former recipients of working tax credit will receive universal credit before April 2014. [78629]

Chris Grayling: Where a claimant is no longer entitled to working tax credit from October 2013 and before April 2014 they will either naturally move on to universal credit or on to one of the old benefits which is being replaced by universal credit, where they meet the condition of entitlement. The benefit on to which a claimant transfers will depend on the precise plans to phase the introduction of universal credit from October 2013 and these will be announced in the spring of 2012.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the introduction of universal credit on the number of disabled children living in poverty. [78630]

Chris Grayling: Based on modelling using the Department for Work and Pensions Policy Simulation Model, it is estimated that universal credit will reduce the number of disabled children living in poverty. The reduction is estimated to be less than 50,000.

This estimate should be treated with caution, due to the small sample size of this group in the Family Resources Survey.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what budget headings has funding for the introduction of universal credit been allocated in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [78631]

Chris Grayling: The 2010 spending review settlement included funding of £2 billion for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15. This is intended to meet all the costs of introducing universal credit including any increases in benefit expenditure, additional benefit administration costs in the transition period, the costs of IT development and implementation, communications, staff training and programme management.

Universal Credit: Free School Meals

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress he has made in determining which families will be eligible for free school meals after the introduction of universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [78628]

Chris Grayling: Defining entitlement to certain passported benefits is the responsibility of other Government Departments and devolved Administrations.

The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) has been commissioned to carry out an independent review on passported benefits on behalf of the Government. This review is still taking place and the Committee has been asked to report by the end of January 2012. The Department will publish the final report alongside our response in April.

Free school meals are the responsibility for the Department for Education, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. In England, the Department for Education is already considering the options for new eligibility criteria and working with a number of stakeholders. Department for Education Ministers will consult on free school meal eligibility proposals in 2012, in good time to take decisions to meet our overall timetable to introduce universal credit by October 2013.

Work Capability Assessment

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of reducing the time allowed to return an ESA50 form on the ability of claimants to gather and submit additional medical evidence to support their claim; [78206]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of reducing the time allowed to return an ESA50 form on the ability of *(a)* claimants with mental health disorders, cognitive problems or learning difficulties and *(b)* other claimants to return the form on time; [78207]

(3) with reference to Section 9 of the Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Regulations 2011, what the reasons are for the reduction of the amount of time allowed to claimants to return an ESA50 form. [78258]

Chris Grayling: From 31 October 2011, the time limits for returning the questionnaire (ESA50) were reduced from 42 days to 28 days overall. This is because the time scales were based on those for incapacity benefit, which included an additional 14 days for claimants to contact their GPs to make an appointment. This is not needed for employment and support allowance claims and the Government believe that it is therefore reasonable reduce the time scales for returning the form from 28 days to 21 days, and the time for reminders to seven days from 14, which makes an overall total of 28 days. We would not wish for this to impinge on a claimant's ability to provide further evidence to support their claim as they will still be required to complete the remaining Work Capability Assessment process, of which, the return of ESA50 is just the start.

We recognise concerns about the effects on vulnerable people, especially those with mental health problems. As a consequence we are retaining all existing safeguards for those claimants who demonstrate that they had good cause for failing to return the questionnaire on time. Decision Makers must consider the claimant's state of health, nature of disability and whether they were in Great Britain before deciding if the claimant has good cause for not completing the questionnaire on time.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average waiting time was in each Jobcentre district for a work capability assessment in the case of *(a)* people not previously claiming benefit after submitting a new application for employment and support allowance and *(b)* existing recipients of incapacity benefit, after receiving notification of re-assessment. [79041]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential benefits of different Work programme providers being able to compare each other's performance. [77963]

Chris Grayling: Work programme providers are required by contract not to share data with other organisations prior to the date of publication of Official Statistics. This clause in the contracts is essential in order to protect the integrity of data and in doing so comply with UK Statistics Authority legislation.

As a minimum, we currently expect to publish referral figures from spring 2012 and job outcome figures from autumn 2012. Data will, subject to their availability and quality, be presented by: age; gender; ethnicity; disability; provider; local authority; parliamentary constituency; and contract package area.

Driving up performance between providers is imperative to the success of the Work programme. From 2013 the best performing provider for each claimant group in a contract package area will receive more new referrals from that claimant group and the weakest will receive fewer, subject to a minimum performance gap. The publication of data will help ensure this is undertaken in a clear and transparent way.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Tier 1 and *(b)* Tier 2 subcontractors from the voluntary and community sector were named in the bids submitted by organisations which are now work programme prime providers. [79042]

Chris Grayling: At the initial round of bidding DWP received 177 bids for the Work programme competition. 40 of these bids were successful and there were 1,404 supply chain opportunities.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Tier 1 and *(b)* Tier 2 subcontractors currently contracted by work programme prime providers are from the voluntary and community sector. [79043]

Chris Grayling: An exact number of tier 1 and tier 2 subcontractors is inaccurate as soon as it is published. DWP does not hold exact numbers but stock takes at points in time. The most recent stock take of the position regarding tier 1 and tier 2 Work programme supply chains found comparatively few changes from those listed in the initial bids with the voluntary sector maintaining the highest share at around 46%.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Queen's Messages

Mr Winnick: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals for messages from Her Majesty the Queen to be notified to the House by Mr Speaker. [78782]

Sir George Young: No.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Adam Werritty

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he has and *(b)* his officials have met Mr Adam Werritty in an official capacity; and whether any such meetings took place (i) in a building within the Government estate and (ii) elsewhere. [78281]

Mr Hague: The information requested is: *(a)* no; *(b)* yes, there was some limited contact both on and off Government premises.

Algeria: Christianity

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on *(a)* the level of religious freedom for Christians in Algeria and *(b)* the effect of Ordinance 06-03 on freedom to worship; and whether he raised these matters during his recent visit to that country. [78234]

Alistair Burt: We monitor religious freedoms in the middle east and north Africa closely. We are aware that the Algerian authorities have closed some places of worship which had not been registered under Ordinance 06-03, including those of Christian groups, since the regulations governing religion in Algeria came into effect in May 2007. I discussed the situation with a delegation of Algerian Christians when I met them on 26 October and they confirmed our understanding that Church representatives, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Interior officials are taking part in working sessions to discuss the implementation of the laws.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed the importance of reform with the Algerian authorities during his recent visit, although did not raise religious freedoms specifically. In relation to freedom of religion, our embassy in Algeria is keeping a number of current cases under review. Where there are opportunities to raise the issue with the host government, we will do so. The subject of individual freedoms and human rights was also discussed with the Algerian authorities at the EU/Algerian political dialogue, which had its first meeting recently.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79077]

Mr Lidington: I refer to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on 23 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1154W, to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane).

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77358]

Mr Lidington: In this period, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) added to the fixed asset register 34 completed projects costing more than £250,000 each, at total cost of £74.48 million. This relates to investment in buildings in our network of nearly 270 posts overseas as well as our offices in the UK, as well as information technology projects that will deliver savings and better services to the FCO and other Government Departments. The FCO made disposals amounting to a total value of £31.62 million during this period. Further details on our fixed assets are published in the FCO's annual report and accounts which are presented to Parliament each year.

Departmental Library

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on its library in each year since 1995; and how many books were issued from the library in each such year. [78282]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ceased hard copy library and information services on 31 March 2008 with the exception of a small legal library which remains for reference and research use by its legal advisers. The Department did not maintain a central record of the library's expenditure and it would incur disproportionate cost to establish such historical data. It did not keep historical data about book issues. A new electronic library was introduced in 2010 to provide information services via the desktop throughout the global network, including access to electronic books.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Library since May 2010; and if he will place a copy of any such representations in the House of Commons Library. [78544]

Mr Hague: Since May 2010 I have received 15 representations about the Foreign and Commonwealth Office library consisting of MP and member of the public letters, freedom of information requests, written parliamentary questions and public correspondence.

I will arrange to place a list of these representations in the Library of the House.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78121]

Mr Jeremy Browne: None. The employees of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are not civil servants.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78047]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The following table details the number of civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who in the last financial year (2010-11) earned salaries within the ranges specified:

	Number
(a) £65,000 to £94,999	258
(b) £95,000 to £139,999	35
(c) £140,000 to £174,999	2
(d) Over £175,000	2

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78125]

Mr Jeremy Browne: No senior civil servant in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received a pay rise, other than through promotion, since the pay freeze came into effect from 1 April 2010.

Civil servants below the senior civil service are subject to a pay freeze with effect from 1 April 2011. Under HM Treasury rules, staff whose full-time equivalent salary is less than £21,000 are entitled to receive a payment of at least £250 during the pay freeze. In line with this, 656 staff received an average increase of £337 with effect from 1 April 2011.

Prior to the pay freeze, with effect from 1 April 2010, 3,715 staff below the senior civil service received a pay rise relating to 2009-10 performance. The average increase was £1,092.

Telephone Helplines

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last five years. [77989]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) consular staff in London and overseas regularly answer phone calls from British nationals seeking our help, including through our 24-hour Global Response Centre. Consular Directorate also provides the following telephone helplines:

Travel advice telephone line

This service offers access to the FCO's travel advice to those who are unable to view it online, or who wish to inquire in person. The service is currently provided by a commercial partner and we have budgeted £ 190,000 for 2011-12. We continue to improve our online travel advice, and hope to reduce this cost by making online advice easier to use. The number of calls received in the past five years:

2006-07: 63,987

2007-08: 58,486

2008-09: 113,904

2009-10: 131,988

2010-11: 114,827.

Overseas crises

In a crisis affecting British nationals overseas the FCO may activate a call handling capacity to take calls from affected members of the public, either in-house or outsourced to a commercial partner or the police. This depends on the scale and nature of the incident. These call handlers usually respond to calls to a dedicated emergency hotline number. Funding for operational costs is not allocated in advance, but these costs can be claimed from the Treasury-held Emergency Disaster Reserve should the total costs of our crisis response surpass £150,000. To establish accurate figures and costs for each of the last five years would incur disproportionate cost.

Legalisation; and births, deaths and marriages inquiries

This service is currently being provided by a commercial partner, to enable the Legalisation Office staff to process documents as efficiently as possible and ensure calls are always answered promptly. Included in the passport telephone inquiry line, Careline

provided a telephone inquiry service for the Legalisation Office from February 2010. When the passport contract moved to the Identity and Passport Service, a one-year short-term extension of contract was established with Careline (from 1 June 2011) to handle legalisation inquiries. Within the same contract, Careline handles telephone inquiries from British nationals looking to register a birth or death or with questions about getting married or arranging a civil partnership overseas. The budget for 2011-12 is £80,000. The number of calls received:

February to December 2010: 22,424 legalisation inquiries

January to October 2011: 27,938 legalisation inquiries and 1,233 calls for births, marriages and deaths inquiries.

Passport inquiry line

Between 1 June 2009 and 1 April 2011, Consular Directorate employed Careline, a UK based company, to provide a telephone inquiry and tracking service for customers applying for passports overseas. Careline continue to provide this service but the contract is now managed by the Identity and Passport Service, an executive agency of the Home Office. The FCO do not pay for this service; customers are charged direct by Careline. Exceptionally, the FCO covered the cost of calls to Careline, from 15 July to 31 July 2011 for customers served by the regional passport processing centre in Dusseldorf and from 15 July until 31 August for customers served by the processing centre in Washington because of delays in passport production. The cost of the temporary free service was £29,610. The number of calls received:

1 June to 31 December 2009: 74,109

1 January to 31 December 2010: 144,901

1 January to 28 October 2011: 115,768.

Consular Directorate provides specific telephone numbers for certain customers requiring FCO support. These are regular FCO phone lines manned by Consular staff during normal working at no additional cost.

The Child Abduction Section helpline

This helpline was established to answer urgent questions from British nationals involved in a parental child abduction, residence or contact dispute overseas. The number of new cases are recorded, rather than the number of calls.

The Forced Marriage Unit helpline

This helpline offers support to British nationals overseas and anyone in the UK who is worried about being forced into a marriage. This is a joint initiative with the Home Office. We do not record the number of calls received, but record the number of unique reports of potential forced marriage cases.

There is also a helpline for Members of Parliament wishing to speak to a member of Consular Directorate about constituency cases. The number of calls is not recorded.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78367]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not taken on any unpaid or expense-only interns over the last 12 months in the UK. It has, however, taken on 52 paid interns in the UK in the last 12 months through a number of publicly advertised schemes.

In the last 12 months, the British Council's UK offices have employed 15 interns on either an unpaid or expenses-only basis.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy has had three short-term expenses-only internships over the last 12 months. Information can be found at:

http://www.wfd.org/who-we-are/internships.aspx

There were no other unpaid or expenses-only internships in the FCO's other arm's length bodies.

EU Aid

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on having a separate budget line for European Commission humanitarian aid in the Multi-Annual Financial Framework. [78002]

Mr Duncan: I have been asked to reply.

The Humanitarian Aid Instrument (HAI) is the main budget line for humanitarian activities in the European Union (EU) budget. The Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR), meanwhile, is the part of the EU budget used to respond to crises in non-EU countries which were not accounted for when the budget was drawn up—allowing the EU to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies.

These instruments fund the work of the Commission's humanitarian agency, European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)—responsible for responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people immediately after a disaster. The UK's Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) rated the agency highly, with very good value for money; closely matching the UK's own humanitarian objectives. ECHO'S separate budget line is an important factor in enabling it to deliver effectively, giving it greater scope to provide long-term and predictable funding to at-risk areas as well as the ability to hold funds in reserve for response to unforeseen disasters and humanitarian crises.

European Union: Powers

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1322W, on Croatia: EU Enlargement, if he will make it his policy to seek to repatriate social and employment powers from the European Union during negotiations on Croatia's accession treaty. [77777]

Mr Lidington: The UK is a firm supporter of EU enlargement and we look forward to Croatia's accession to the EU. The treaty concerning Croatian accession, which will be adopted in accordance with Article 49 TEU is due to be signed by the EU member states and by Croatia in December 2011, and the current target date for accession is 1 July 2013. Article 49 TEU deals specifically with accession agreements, which set out the conditions of admission of the acceding state and adjustments to the treaties which that admission entails. Article 49 cannot be used to alter the balance of power or competences between existing member states and the EU. Accession treaties deal with the transfer of power and competence from the acceding state to the EU.

India: British Nationals Abroad

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on British nationals dying in India. [78040]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) receives regular reports of cases involving British nationals dying in India. The FCO, through our network of diplomatic representations in India and our consular department in London, offers assistance and advice when required to the families and friends of British nationals. This includes providing information on available local burial and cremation procedures, about companies that can assist with international repatriation, help in liaising with the local authorities on a range of matters including family wishes for funeral arrangements and, through Victim Support, support for bereaved relatives in the UK.

The FCO regularly raises unresolved cases with the Government of India, including in July when I called on Indian Home Secretary Chidambaram and since then at official level. The FCO will continue to do this in a measured and fair manner until each unresolved case is concluded. There are currently 64 unresolved death cases.

Nigeria: Human Rights

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on human rights in Nigeria. [78477]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have received representations concerning inter-communal violence in Plateau State. The British high commission has raised our concerns about the ongoing conflict which has affected both Christian and Muslim communities in Plateau State and urged the Nigerian Federal and state governments, traditional rulers and religious leaders to work together to address the root social, economic and political issues.

We are also aware of a proposed Bill to prohibit marriage between persons of the same gender, currently being debated by the Nigerian Senate. In a recent meeting with the Chair of the Senate committee on human rights, the EU Delegation in Nigeria lobbied against the introduction of the Bill. We supported that action and will continue to closely monitor developments on the Bill.

Palestinians: Prisoners

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the conditions of detention of Palestinian children in prison in Israel. [78822]

Alistair Burt: As I stated in the House on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 166, we receive regular reports about the detention of Palestinian children from a non-governmental organisation, Defence for Children International.

We remain concerned about the detention of children in military jails and the prosecution of children through military courts.

During my visit in June, I raised this matter directly with the Minister responsible, indicating the UK's concerns about both the detention and the treatment of children. The Israelis have recently raised the age of criminal responsibility in the territories from 16 to 18, so it is the same as for Israeli children. Nonetheless, I know that the Israeli Government do take seriously the fact that children are detained in circumstances that cause concern to NGOs and UNICEF, and we will continue to press them on this.

Palestinians: UNESCO

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the UK voted on the admission of Palestine to UNESCO. [78543]

Alistair Burt: The UK abstained on the Palestinian application to join UNESCO. The principal basis for this decision was because we believe that the UN Security Council should conclude its careful consideration of the Palestinian application to the UN, before other UN specialised agencies or other international organisations consider separate applications. We do not want to prejudge the ongoing discussions in New York.

Serbia: EU Enlargement

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Serbia's bid for EU membership; and if he will make a statement. [77804]

Mr Lidington: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 1 November 2011 to the hon. Member for Islwyn (Chris Evans), *Official Report*, column 584W.

Turkey: Earthquakes

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to the Turkish authorities following the recent earthquake in that country; and if he will make a statement. [78305]

Mr Duncan: I have been asked to reply.

In response to a specific request from the Turkish Government, the UK Government have provided 1,144 protective winter tents to house 5,500 people who are without shelter. The Turkish Government have not requested food, medicines, blankets, heaters or additional relief commodities. The UK Government will continue to monitor the situation in the affected region.

UNESCO: Finance

Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to UNESCO in each year from 2000 to 2011. [78576]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Department for International Development (DFID) pays the UK's assessed contributions to UNESCO.

The figures for the assessed contribution from 2000 to 2011 are as follows:

	£ million
2000	[1]12.032
2001	[1]13.493
2002	12.018
2003	11.149
2004	10.597
2005	11.114
2006	10.716
2007	14.100
2008	13.145
2009	10.013
2010	14.933
2011	14.482

[1] Figures taken from Statistics on International Development, remaining figures from ARIES.

The UK has benefitted from rebates in the second year of the biennium as a result of early payment of its contribution. Rebates amounted to £330,000 in 2004-05; £1,083,000 in 2006-07 and £700,000 in 2008-09.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether officials of his Department provided any advice to the Minister with responsibility for international security strategy in advance of his meeting with Mr Adam Werritty and Mr Stephen Crouch on 27 September 2011; [78858]

(2) whether the Minister with responsibility for international security strategy's meeting with Mr Adam Werritty and Mr Stephen Crouch on 27 September 2011 was arranged by his diary secretary; [78859]

(3) whether any official of his Department attended the Minister with responsibility for international security strategy's meeting with Mr Adam Werritty and Mr Stephen Crouch on 27 September 2011; and whether minutes of that meeting were taken. [78860]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), on 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 30-31W, to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) and the hon. Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas).

The meeting with Adam Werritty and Stephen Crouch on 27 September was not organised by my Ministry of Defence diary secretary, officials did not provide any advice in advance and no record was taken.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many cadets were enrolled in the Sussex Air Cadets in each of the last five years; and how much funding per cadet his Department provided to the Sussex Air Cadets in each of the last five years; [77312]

(2) how many cadets were enrolled in the Sussex Sea Cadets in each of the last five years; and how much funding per cadet his Department provided to the Sussex Sea Cadets in each of the last five years; [77313]

(3) how many cadets were enrolled in the Sussex Army Cadet Force in each of the last five years; and how much funding per cadet his Department provided to the Sussex Army Cadet Force in each of the last five years. [77314]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* The number of cadets in each of the service cadet forces in Sussex fluctuates throughout the year; we have therefore provided a snapshot as at a point each year, which varies for each service.

As at 1 September 2011 unless shown otherwise	*Total number of Sea Cadets*
31 March 2006	367
2007	432
2008	433
2009	450
2010	476
2011	450

	Total number of Army Cadets as at 1 September 2011	*Number enrolled annually*
2007	922	397
2008	1,042	423
2009	935	454
2010	1,114	471
2011	1,196	362

As at 30 September 2011	*Total number of Air Cadets*
2006	820
2007	799
2008	789
2009	835
2010	805
2011	823

It is not possible to provide information on the funding per cadet as it is not calculated or held in the format requested. Details of the funding to units in Sussex provided from the grant in aid provided by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) over the past five financial years are shown in the following tables for each of the services where this information is available.

Financial year	*Sea Cadet funding (£)*
2006-07	69,224.01
2007-08	70,428.28
2008-09	57,446.84
2009-10	47,041.94
2010-11	40,297.35
2011-12 to date	26,114.43

Financial year	*Army Cadet funding (£)*
2007-08	252,059.00
2008-09	268,286.00
2009-10	302,880.00
2010-11	312,757.00
2011-12 to date	186,638.00

These figures represent funding for cadet activities such as ammunition, rations, transport, paid training days and travel and subsistence. This does not cover the cost of salaries and pensions of permanent staff employed in the cadet forces, or other support costs, such as buildings maintenance, which are accounted for centrally.

For the Air Cadet units in Sussex, it is not possible to provide information on the funding per cadet as it is not held in the format requested. A recent internal study calculated that the total average cost of one Air Training Corps cadet was £1,086 per year, but this is not calculated on the same basis as the grant figures given above.

The Sea Cadets are funded differently to the Army and Air Cadets. Unlike the other MOD-sponsored cadet forces, the Sea Cadets are a charity and raise 45% of their funding themselves from outside the MOD.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* service family accommodation and *(b)* single living accommodation has been identified as requiring refurbishment; and if he will make a statement. [78271]

Mr Robathan: 96% of service family accommodation (SFA) properties in the UK are already at the top two standards (of four) for condition. £100 million will be spent upgrading properties to the top standard by 2013.

From 2003-13, a total of £1.4 billion will have been spent delivering 60,000 new or improved single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces.

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 512W, on armed forces: mental health, what recent progress he has made on implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) that a member of the armed forces whose requirement for a specialist opinion is identified at the time of discharge should be able to obtain it and any follow-on treatment in a military department of community mental health for the next six months. [78539]

Mr Robathan: The policy is now in place and operational, and has been formally promulgated in Annex A to Section 11.0 of Joint Service Publication (JSP) 950 Leaflet 2-7-2 (Veterans and Mental Healthcare Provision in Departments of Community Mental Health). A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average waiting time was to join the Army in each of the last two years. [78294]

Mr Robathan: It is not possible to provide an average waiting time for those who apply to join the Army as each individual application is unique and varies considerably depending on whether the applicant is applying to enlist as an officer or soldier, regular or in the Territorial Army. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Army aims to process applications as quickly and efficiently as possible. Many factors can influence the length of time taken including medical issues, fitness levels, security clearance and the availability of places at selection centres and training establishments plus vacancies in chosen trades.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 211W, on armed forces: recruitment, how many people were recruited to each of the armed forces at each recruitment centre in each year since 2009-10. [78536]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan (Dr Whiteford) on 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 987W.

Armed Forces: Training

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Army recruits currently in Phase 1 or Phase 2 training are not deployable due to their age. [79216]

Mr Robathan: There are no Army recruits currently in Phase One and Phase Two training who are not deployable due to their age. This is because no Army recruit is deployable until they have completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training regardless of their age.

On completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 training, individuals will not be deployed if they are under the age of 18.

Armed Forces: Young People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the minimum age is for training with *(a)* live ammunition, *(b)* guns, *(c)* bayonets and *(d)* other weapons. [78046]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 2 November 2011]:* The armed forces recruit from age 16. All new recruits undertake live weapon training during their phase 1 training. The use of bayonets is not universal across the services but training will begin, regardless of age, when recruits join those branches that do make use of bayonets, for example, the infantry or RAF Regiment. The guidelines governing the use of live weapons during phase 1 and 2 training are stringent in considering accident prevention and physical security and no training is undertaken without strict supervision.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of armed forces veterans in prison enlisted under the age of 18. [78141]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 2 November 2011]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to prohibit the participation in hostilities of soldiers aged under 18 in any circumstances. [78261]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* Our policy remains that no service personnel under the age of 18 are deployed on operations which would result in them becoming engaged in, or exposed, to hostilities. I see no need to take further action.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* voluntary discharges from the (i) Army, (ii) Navy and (iii) RAF (A) were under the age of 18 and (B) had enlisted while under the age of 18 in each of the last five years. [78311]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* The information requested is not held centrally in a format that would allow for the differentiation between compulsory and voluntary outflow. However, the proportion of personnel under the age of 18 leaving the services and the proportion of leavers who enlisted while under the age of 18, against the total number leaving the services, is presented in the following tables. Information is not available before 2007-08 as the joint personnel administration system, from which the information presented was sourced, was not fully operational before that time.

Outflow from UK armed forces of those under 18 as a proportion of all service leavers

Percentage

	Financial year			
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
All services	7.6	7.1	8.1	4.5
Naval service	5.7	5.6	5.6	2.2
Army	10.0	9.1	10.0	6.3
RAF	1.2	2.6	3.6	0.7

Outflow from UK armed forces of those who enlisted while under 18 as a proportion of all service leavers

Percentage

	Financial year			
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
All services	37.9	36.6	34.4	34.0
Naval service	33.6	33.2	29.3	27.1
Army	41.5	40.6	37.9	37.9
RAF	27.0	27.4	26.6	27.3

Freedom of Information Requests

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to his Department on or after 7 May 2010 remain unanswered after 30 working days. [78538]

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued; [78879]

(2) in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78880]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) publishes statistics on the handling of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by over 40 central Government bodies. These include the Ministry of Defence (MOD), which receives approximately 3,000 requests each year. This information is available on the Ministry of Justice and the National Archive websites, at the following addresses:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly-archive.htm

Statistics for the whole of 2011 will be collated and published in due course.

The MOD and MOJ do not collect data on the number of 'holding responses' sent to requesters, only on the timeliness of substantive responses for both instances when a public interest test has or has not been applied.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78881]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence officials would normally determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

There are 23 FOI exemptions. One of these section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person that the exemption applies. The Act states that in relation to information held by Government, the qualified person must be a Minister. A ministerial submission is produced by the lead business area and submitted to the Minister with responsibility for the topic that the FOI covers. In addition, any FOI received from an MP or their support staff, must receive a response from a Minister. Again, this is the Minister with responsibility for the topic that the FOI covers.

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78108]

Mr Robathan: The information requested for the years in question is set out in the following table:

Number

	Statutory instruments	*Ministerial orders*
1990	9	—
1995	4	—
1999	8	1
2000	21	2
2001	6	3
2002	9	3
2003	8	4
2004	10	5
2005	26	5
2006	24	5
2007	18	5
2008	22	6
2009	60	6
2010	5	4
2011 (to date)	11	2

The ministerial orders referred to are orders made by the Secretary of State for Defence under the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to call-out members of the reserve forces.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter-terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77883]

Mr Robathan: Defence Business Services, National Security Vetting (previously known as the Defence Vetting Agency).

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78380]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) offers a number of summer diversity internships for undergraduates each year. Full information on this scheme is at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/faststream

Information on other internships that may have been offered by the MOD or its arm's length bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Drummore Harbour: Land

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the sale price was of his Department's land holding interest at Drummore Harbour; and what conditions were attached to the sale. [79048]

Mr Robathan: The harbour pier wall and high water foreshore at Drummore Harbour was sold by the Ministry of Defence in 2004 for £1,000. No specific conditions were attached to the sale.

European Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what alterations will be required to existing range complexes following the proposed transfer of the Typhoon force from RAF Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth. [78614]

Mr Robathan: Detailed planning continues, but there are no changes currently planned to existing range complexes resulting from the future transfer of the Typhoon force from RAF Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78085]

Mr Robathan: In June 2011, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) employed the following numbers of officials, including support staff, in the five different legal sections within the Department:

Central Legal Services, MOD—100, of whom 78 are legally qualified

Army Legal Services—141, of whom 99 are legally qualified

RAF Legal Services—54, of whom 42 are legally qualified

Navy Legal Services—40, of whom 16 are legally qualified

The Service Prosecuting Authority—73, of whom 39 are legally qualified

These figures do not include locally hired civilians who are employed in overseas locations. With regard to the MOD's agencies and Trading Funds, at 1 June 2011, the UK Hydrographic Office had one in-house lawyer.

Services Officers

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many officers of captain rank or above there are in *(a)* the Navy and *(b)* his Department; [78008]

(2) how many generals there are in *(a)* the Army and *(b)* his Department; [78011]

(3) how many admirals there are in *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* his Department; [78012]

(4) how many officers of major rank and above there are in *(a)* the Army and *(b)* his Department. [78013]

Mr Robathan: The following tables provide information on the total number of officers in the Royal Navy and Army holding the rank of Admiral, their Army equivalent, and below as at 1 April 2011:

Royal Navy

	Total
Admiral	2
Vice Admiral	7
Rear Admiral	33
Commodore	80
Captain	300

Army

	Total
General	6
Lieutenant General	9
Major General	43
Brigadier	170
Colonel	580
Lieutenant Colonel	1,780
Major	4,700

Officers of the armed forces can serve in a variety of appointments both in the United Kingdom and overseas, but continue to be employed by the Ministry of Defence. Reductions are expected across the senior ranks in the light of the independent report by Lord Levene which considered the way in which the Ministry of Defence is structured and managed. The reduction in the number of senior staff will impact most significantly on non-command appointments.

Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) publish Defence Statistics annually on their website:

www.dasa.mod.uk

This includes the United Kingdom Regular Armed Forces by rank structure.

World War I: Anniversaries

Mr Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the World War 1. [76063]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Traditionally, we mark the anniversary of the conclusion of a conflict rather than its beginning. So the main commemorations will be on the centenary of the end of the World War 1 in 1918. However, given the importance of the centenary of World War I, a number of anniversaries of key events from 2014 to 2018, including the beginning of the war, will be marked in an appropriate way. The Prime Minister has asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to act as his special representative and co-ordinator for World War I Commemorations. Dr Murrison will work with international partners to ensure that the UK plays a full and active role; and will co-ordinate the cross-Whitehall effort in respect of the commemorations.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Adam Werritty

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78862]

John Penrose: This Department's Ministers, officials and special advisers have not met Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010.

American Football

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on grass roots participation in sports of the NFL playing two regular season American football games in the UK. [78240]

Hugh Robertson: The Department has made no such assessment. Sport England record the levels of once-a- month participation in American Football, which can be found in the following table, but there has been no significant change since 2007-08.

Date	*Volume of once a month participation*
October 2007 to October 2008	37,800
October 2008 to October 2009	30,600
October 2009 to October 2010	38,500
April 2010 to April 2011	31,800

Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has made to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs on finances for businesses in the creative industries. [78217]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* A wide range of issues are discussed at the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Affairs, including different ways the Government can support the Creative Industries.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase access to finance by small and medium-sized enterprises in the creative industries. [78315]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, my hon. Friend the Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson), on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 164W.

Arts Council England

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding Arts Council England plans to provide for jazz in the North East in 2012-13 and in subsequent years. [79144]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England (ACE) is committed to working with the jazz sector to enhance opportunities for artists, promoters and audiences. The three ACE regularly funded jazz agencies in the North were unsuccessful in their recent National Portfolio applications, decisions for which were based on an assessment of the strength of those applications.

ACE continues to support and encourage applications for funding from north eastern emerging jazz artists, touring groups, jazz festivals, new commissions and other jazz activity under the open access Grants for the Arts programme. ACE representatives recently met with the All Party Parliamentary Jazz Appreciation Group and they will continue to discuss future funding possibilities.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78890]

John Penrose: Departmental officials would normally determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

However, the exemption under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person (QP) that the exemption applies. In relation to information held by Government, the QP must be a Minister.

It is departmental policy that the decision as to whether section 36 is applicable will be made by the Minister who has the policy responsibility for the subject of the request.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78375]

John Penrose: The Department has employed two unpaid interns in the last 12 months as part of the Whitehall Diversity Internship programme. Both had placements in our private offices and the Government Olympic Executive.

We do not hold central records for our arm's length bodies. I have therefore asked their chief executives to write directly to the Member for Liverpool Wavertree (Luciana Berger).

Copies will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Freeview Services

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the *(a)* policing and *(b)* mitigation of interference with Freeview digital terrestrial services that may arise from the introduction of 4G mobile technology. [78482]

Mr Vaizey: My officials are in constant dialogue with Ofcom on both the policy implications and technical measures associated with these issues. We expect decisions on the mitigation process to be made by the end of this year.

Mobile Phones

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what factors he will take into consideration when allocating the recently announced £150 million in funding for mobile telephone masts; [78476]

(2) whether the £150 million in funding for mobile telephone masts will be limited to deployment of *(a)* 2G, *(b)* 3G or *(c)* 4G mobile technologies. [78496]

Mr Vaizey: The principal consideration when considering the optimal use of the £150 million for mobile masts will be to fill in not-spots in the national 2G mobile coverage and raise the coverage level to 99%. However when decisions are being made on locations and mast types, consideration will be given to the requirements of hosting other technologies such as 3G and eventually 4G on the new structures.

Museums and Galleries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people volunteered in *(a)* theatres, *(b)* museums, *(c)* art galleries and *(d)* national heritage sites in the latest period for which figures are available. [77946]

Mr Vaizey: From July 2010 to June 2011, 23.8% of people had volunteered in the last 12 months. Of these, 14.2% had volunteered within the Department's arts (including theatre), museums and galleries (combined) and heritage sectors. The estimated numbers of volunteers in each of these sectors are shown in the following table:

	Percentage	*Estimated number of volunteers*
Volunteers in last 12 months	23.8	10,027,640
Sector		
Arts	8.3	831,491
Museums/galleries	1.5	148,913
Heritage	4.4	437,818

Source:
Taking Part Survey

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of upkeep of *(a)* theatres, *(b)* museums, *(c)* art galleries and *(d)* national heritage sites in each region of England in each of the last 10 years. [77947]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold disaggregated figures on the amount of money spent on the upkeep of regionally based theatres, museums, art galleries and heritage sites. To provide this would incur disproportionate costs.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in funding on *(a)* theatres, *(b)* museums, *(c)* art galleries and *(d)* national heritage sites in each region of England over the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [78009]

Mr Vaizey: At the time of the spending review, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), and I were keen to ensure the sustainability of our key cultural assets by limiting cuts to museums, heritage sites, and frontline arts organisations to 15% over the four year period. This has enabled national and regional organisations to put in place effective plans to meet the required savings.

Both English Heritage and Arts Council England continue to work closely with organisations they fund, to achieve efficiency, raise philanthropy, explore commercial opportunities and ensure the cultural regional offer remains excellent. This Department's Ministers meet with the chief executives of both organisations regularly to discuss progress and any concerns.

National Lottery: Tickets

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment his Department has made of the proportion of the health lottery ticket price that goes to *(a)* good causes, *(b)* administration costs, *(c)* tax and *(d)* profit; and what proportion of ticket prices for (i) traditional society lotteries and (ii) the national lottery goes to such categories; [79052]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Treasury on the tax regimes applying to different types of lottery; and if he will make a statement. [79053]

John Penrose: My Department does not hold the breakdown as requested. The Gambling Act 2005 requires that as a minimum a society lottery needs to apply 20% of the proceeds of each lottery to their good cause. We understand that the health lottery has publicly stated that it expects 20.3% of proceeds will be allocated to health related causes with the remaining proceeds being split between prizes and expenses. Society lotteries are not subject to lottery duty, and DCMS Ministers have not discussed this issue with Treasury Ministers. Decisions in this area are, of course, for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), and the Treasury keeps taxation policy under constant review.

The Gambling Commission's "Industry statistics, 2009/10"

> http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/pdf/Gambling%20Industry%20Statistics%202009%202010%20update%20-%20July%202011.pdf

show that in the period October 2009 to September 2010 total proceeds (ticket sales) in society lotteries (both lotteries run by external lottery managers and directly by the societies) were £200 million. This represents an increase of 9% on the previous 12 months. The ticket sales were apportioned as follows: 18% to prizes; 51% to purposes of promoting society, and 31% to expenses. The National Lottery Commission advise that the national lottery, on average, is apportioned as follows: 50% to prizes; 28% to good causes; 12% to lottery duty; 5% to retailers; 4.5% to expenses and up to 0.5% profit to the operator depending on performance.

National Planning Policy Framework

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many representations his Department received on the draft National Planning Policy Framework; and if he will list any such representations. [77791]

John Penrose: This Department has received a number of representations from a range of groups on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. We have encouraged all of these bodies to contribute to the consultation exercise being run by the Department for Communities and Local Government which closed on 17 October 2011.

Radio Frequencies

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will ensure that universal broadband access at a minimum of 2 Mbps is a priority following the sale of 800, 700 and 600 MHz spectrum. [78481]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom's current coverage proposal for the combined auction of the spectrum at 800 MHz and 2600 MHz includes providing a service of not less than 2 Mbps to 95% of the population. It is the Government's stated aim to ensure that broadband for all would be available at 2 Mbps by 2015. Consideration of the future of the 700 MHz band is at a very early stage. Ofcom published a call for input into the future of the band earlier this year and intends to consult on this in the near future. Ofcom is currently considering how and when to make spectrum at 600 MHz available, although this spectrum could be used for broadcast rather than telecommunications services.

Radio Licensing

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Ofcom licence application process for radio stations. [78203]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom works independently of Government, and Ministers do not make assessments of the effectiveness of their licensing process for radio stations. However, all of Ofcom's licensing processes are conducted in line with the relevant statutory provisions.

Sign Language

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of sign language users in the UK who use (i) British Sign Language and (ii) an alternative form of sign language as their primary means of communication. [78588]

Mr Vaizey: This Department (DCMS) has not commissioned any research into the number of users of British Sign Language (BSL), or other alternative forms of sign language, in the UK. DCMS understands that the number of users is not formally recorded. In undertaking its review of relay service provision in the UK, Ofcom, the independent national telecoms regulator, has drawn on a number of sources of data and quotes the figure of 50,000 BSL users (source: Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People, now known as Signature). The Council does not indicate how many of these people use BSL as their primary means of communication.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the potential growth in the number of British Sign Language interpreters as a result of the introduction of (i) restricted and (ii) unrestricted video relay services. [78589]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has not commissioned any research into the potential growth in the numbers of British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters which might arise as a consequence of the introduction of commercially available video relay services, restricted or otherwise, in the UK. According to the UK register of Sign Language Interpreters there are 682 interpreters qualified at the appropriate level for commercial video relay provision ('Member of the Register' level), which is up from 519 since Ofcom, the independent national telecoms regulator, published its consultation on relay service provision in the UK at the end of July. The register is a public document available at:

http://portal.nrcpd.org.uk/search/

Independent contributions submitted in response to Ofcom's consultation estimate the number of interpreters needed to deliver an unrestricted video relay service was 2,053 full-time equivalents. However, it is good practice for interpreters to move between the video relay studio and field interpreting, so the figure required is likely to be significantly higher.

School Sport

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress his Department made in recruiting School Games Organisers; how many are in post; and if he will make a statement. [78415]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England has now awarded grant funding to 424 of the 450 schools which will host the School Games organisers. We expect all organisers to be in post by the end of December 2011.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many schools are currently participating in the School Games; how many will participate in competitions at each level prior to the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [78416]

Hugh Robertson: On 1 November 2011, a total of 8;541 schools had registered to be part of the School Games during the school year 2011-12. Schools will report back on their participation in the School Games at the end of the school year.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to continue funding for School Games beyond the end of 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [78417]

Hugh Robertson: My Department is funding School Games until 2014-15. Over the period 2010-11 to 2014-15, £130.9 million Exchequer and lottery funding will be invested to support the programme.

Ticket Touting

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to tackle ticket touting for sporting events. [78567]

Hugh Robertson: The Government have no current plans to extend existing legislation, covering the resale of tickets.

UK Sport: Sport England

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the performance of UK Sport in the preparation of elite athletes for the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [78409]

Hugh Robertson: I will place copies of the Department's 2011-12 funding agreement with UK Sport in the House Libraries. This sets out the key performance indicators against which UK Sport's performance will be judged at the end of the financial year. During the year my officials conduct quarterly performance review meetings to determine progress towards these performance indicators and at the end of the reporting year I will conduct an annual performance review. Nevertheless, at this stage of the London cycle, both ourselves and UK Sport are confident that our Olympic and Paralympic teams will meet their London 2012 target of top four and second respectively in the medal tables at London 2012, winning more medals in more sports.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the performance of Sport England in increasing participation in sport; and if he will make a statement. [78410]

Hugh Robertson: I will place copies of the Department's 2011-12 funding agreement with Sport England in the House Libraries. This sets out the key performance indicators against which Sport England's performance will be judged at the end of the financial year. During the year my officials conduct quarterly performance review meetings to determine progress towards these performance indicators and at the end of the reporting year I will conduct an annual performance review.

We are determined to get more people playing sport as a legacy from London 2012 and we will continue to hold national governing bodies to account for the delivery of their whole sport plans. I am confident that with the inspiration of the games in 2012, and a new approach with a clearer expectation of concrete results in return for Government investment, we will see the benefit at grassroots level.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what savings to the public purse he expects to achieve from the merger of UK Sport and Sport England; and if he will make a statement. [78411]

Hugh Robertson: We are currently considering the merger of UK Sport and Sport England. Final decisions, including on the structure and governance of the new organisation, have not yet been taken. As such, precise figures on savings cannot be provided at this stage.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how spending on participation in sport and elite sports performance will be monitored following the merger of UK Sport and Sport England; and if he will make a statement. [78412]

Hugh Robertson: This is still under consideration but we expect that the monitoring of spending will be broadly similar to the current arrangements. However, as part of the comphrensive spending review settlement, both UK Sport and Sport England were told to reduce their expenditure on administration by 50%.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how the performance of the body formed from the merger of UK Sport and Sport England will be measured against the performance of its predecessors; and if he will make a statement. [78413]

Hugh Robertson: This is still under consideration. In general, the Department manages the performance of its public bodies through funding agreements, containing key performance indicators.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to ensure that support for elite athletes in preparation for the Rio 2016 Olympics continues following the merger of UK Sport and Sport England; and if he will make a statement. [78414]

Hugh Robertson: It is anticipated that performance support functions currently undertaken by UK Sport will be maintained in any new structure. This will ensure no loss of momentum in performance support through to Rio. In addition, UK Sport intends to make funding awards to Olympic and Paralympic sports for the Rio cycle in December 2012, before any changes take place.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the value of *(a)* RBS and *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group on (i) 7 May 2010 and (ii) 1 November 2011. [78861]

Mr Hoban: The Government does not routinely value either RBS or Lloyds Banking Group (LBG). This information is already publicly available from a wide variety of sources.

The Government does, however, estimate the value of its shareholdings in these banks. The most recent official estimate of the value of the Government's shareholdings in RBS and LBG is contained in the Treasury's resource accounts for 2010-11, which show the value of these holdings as at the end of March 2011 was £55.3 billion.

The OBR also publish the estimate of the expected net overall cost of the financial sector interventions, which includes details of the value of the Government's shareholdings in RBS and Lloyds. The next publication of this estimate will be on 29 November as part of their Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

Biofuels

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal steps he is taking to support the growth of the sustainable biodiesel industry. [78552]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government support biofuels, including biodiesel, through the renewable transport fuel obligation administered by the Department for Transport. As part of its consultation on implementing the transport elements of the renewable energy directive, the Department for Transport has proposed providing twice the financial support to sustainable waste-derived biofuels as will be provided to conventional biofuels. Under this double certification arrangement a litre of biofuel from wastes would currently yield around 40 pence per litre.

Business: Loans

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on lending of the recent increase in the London Interbank Offered Rate. [79017]

Mr Hoban: Money market rates have seen some upward pressure in recent months, reflecting concerns regarding the euro area crisis. Banks in the UK have gone into this period of market difficulty in a much better position than the previous crisis on both capital and liquidity. The Bank of England has reported that credit availability in Q3 2011 remained broadly unchanged for businesses and increased slightly for households. We will continue to monitor this closely as market volatility persists.

Child Benefit

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of child benefit recipients with *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more children who are resident outside the UK. [78330]

Mr Gauke: The main purpose of child benefit is to support families living in the UK. Consequently, the general rules for this benefit do not provide for it to be paid in respect of children who are resident outside this country.

However, child benefit is a family benefit under EC Regulation 883/2004 on social security co-ordination and I therefore refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 6 September 2011, *Official Report,* columns 400-401W, to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr Jackson). Information about the number of children each claimant receives child benefit for would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Commodity Markets: Food

Dr Huppert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the conclusion in the OECD Agricultural Outlook 2011-20 report on the relationship between speculative activity in futures markets and the price of agricultural goods. [78943]

Mr Hoban: The analysis presented in the OECD Agricultural Outlook 2011-20 report is consistent with the Government's view that speculation in agricultural futures and options markets is unlikely to have been a significant causal factor in recent agricultural price spikes.

Council Tax: Swindon

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties in Swindon were in each council tax band in the latest period for which figures are available. [78391]

Mr Gauke: The number of dwellings in each council tax band in Swindon unitary authority, as at 30 September 2011, are shown in the following table:

Council tax band	*Number of dwellings*
A	13,990
B	26,230
C	22,850
D	15,310
E	7,880
F	2,970
G	1,240
H	60
Total	90,520

Note:
Totals may not sum due to rounding.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) publishes counts of dwellings by council tax band for each local authority in England and Wales on a quarterly basis. Figures for the end of September 2011 can be found on the VOA website in the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/statisticalReleases/131011_CouncilTaxValuationListSummary.html

This publication will next be updated in January 2012 to include statistics for end December 2011.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74980]

Miss Chloe Smith: The average cost of processing an invoice for the Treasury Group in 2010-11 was £6.00. Of the 11,920 invoices settled in that period, 99.7% were settled electronically and 0.3% by cheque.

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects his Department plans in the (i) current and (ii) next financial year; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74374]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury is currently taking forward a space consolidation project in 1 Horse Guards road to halve the amount of space the Treasury uses. The project will increase the occupancy of the building and provide a modern, efficient and effective workplace. I will write to the hon. Member with costs for the project once a contract is awarded and deposit a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78918]

Miss Chloe Smith: Statistics on the Treasury's performance under the Freedom of Information Act are published quarterly by the Ministry of Justice, with annual reports being placed in the House Library. These publications are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

The data published comply with the reporting requirements for central Government Departments which were agreed by Parliament. The figures are available both as quarterly and annual statistics. Information has been published up to the second quarter of 2011. Future publications will be made by the Ministry of Justice.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78919]

Miss Chloe Smith: Statistics on the Treasury's performance under the Freedom of Information Act are published quarterly by the Ministry of Justice, with annual reports being placed in the House Library. These publications are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

The data published complies with the reporting requirements for central government departments which were agreed by Parliament, and the figures are available as quarterly or annual statistics. Information has been published up to the second quarter of 2011. The reports contain the data sought in parts a), b), c) and d) of the question.

NDBPs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78116]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury currently has two NDPBs. The Royal Mint Advisory Committee became the Treasury's responsibility in January 2010 and does not employ any civil servants. The Office of Budget Responsibility was established in April 2011 and employed 17 civil servants at the end of September 2011. HM Treasury has not been responsible for any other NDPBs since 2000.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74918]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury pays members of senior civil service payband 1 a London allowance of £2,000 per annum. The total cost of the allowance in 2010-11 was £151,000. Staff below the senior civil service do not receive a London allowance. These payments reflect the need to compete with other London-based organisations to attract suitable senior staff.

No additional London living allowances or weightings are paid although the Department does have a London rate of basic pay which is higher than the rate paid to staff employed outside London.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78127]

Miss Chloe Smith: The two year public sector pay freeze announced in the emergency Budget on 21 June 2010 applied to HM Treasury in 2010 and 2011. Under the terms of the freeze, those earning a full-time equivalent salary of less than £21,000 were to receive an annual salary increase of at least £250. This was the only basis for civil servants in HM Treasury to receive a pay rise other than promotion in the last two years. The number of staff affected and the average increase is shown in the following table.

	Number of staff	*Average increase (percentage)*
2010	145	1.3
2011	94	1.3

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78135]

Miss Chloe Smith: Non-consolidated bonus payments are made to staff who have performed exceptionally well in two circumstances in their role. These are:

1. Non-consolidated bonus payments linked to the annual staff appraisal report;
2. Special bonuses paid to staff in year to recognise specific contributions or pieces of work.

Non-consolidated bonus payments are paid in the year following the year for which performance is appraised. So, payments made in 2011-12 are made in respect of the 2010-11 appraisal year.

The number of civil servants receiving a non-consolidated bonus under either of the categories above in the years since 2007 is shown in the following table:

Performance year	*Payment year*	*Number of staff*
2006-07	2007-08	717
2007-08	2008-09	696
2008-09	2009-10	1,073
2009-10	2010-11	541

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78366]

Miss Chloe Smith: In the last 12 months there have been fewer than five unpaid and expense-only interns employed by HMT and arm's length bodies.

Diesel Fuel: Agriculture

Mr Cox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will examine the merits of an exemption for the use of red diesel in farm vehicles belonging to farmers who are requested by county and parish councils to volunteer to assist with gritting rural roads; [78698]

(2) what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on its review of enforcement policies in respect of the unpaid one-off use of red diesel in farm vehicles for the purposes solely for the benefit of the community. [78699]

Miss Chloe Smith: Ministers have asked HMRC to conduct an internal review of policy on the use of rebated fuel in agricultural vehicles. As part of that review, HMRC will consider instances of unremunerated voluntary work.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Michael Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many payments have been made under the Equitable Life Payment Scheme up to 31 October 2011. [78639]

Mr Hoban: The scheme will be publishing a report in due course on the volumes and values of payments made.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* officials in his Department and *(b)* other staff are employed in administering the Equitable Life Payment scheme. [78640]

Mr Hoban: The Equitable Life Payment scheme is being delivered by NS&I on the Treasury's behalf and there are 186 people currently administering the scheme.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he plans to implement the rural fuel duty discount scheme. [78616]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 20W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire (Simon Hart). The Government plan to implement the rural fuel discount scheme as soon as possible following EU level agreement.

Excise Duties: National Lottery

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the health lottery on lottery duty receipts; and if he will make a statement. [79054]

Miss Chloe Smith: The health lottery was launched on 29 September 2011. Several months of data would be required to determine the effect of the health lottery on lottery duty receipts.

Green Investment Bank

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 308W, on the Green Investment Bank, in the event that the £2 billion target is not reached from the sale of assets whether the Government plan to fund the shortfall from general taxation. [78788]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government's plan is to provide £2 billion from asset sales towards the Green Investment Bank. They are confident that the sales they are considering will be sufficient.

Individual Savings Accounts: Stocks and Shares

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to allow shares listed on the Alternative Investment Market to be held within an individual savings account. [79012]

Mr Hoban: ISAs are the Government's main non-pensions savings incentive, and act as a mainstream savings product held by over 23 million people. The Government believes that ISAs are a trusted brand, and that it is important that this is maintained.

The Government therefore does not intend to allow shares listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM)-which generally carry a higher level of investment risk, and can be less liquid - to be qualifying investments for ISAs.

The Government agrees that it is important that small and growing companies are supported, and companies listed on AIM can benefit from other incentive schemes, such as investments made through the Enterprise Investment scheme and Venture Capital Trusts.

Learning Disability

Mr Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet representatives of the learning disability sector to discuss implementation of the steps to provide services for people with a learning disability following the outcome of the Dilnot Commission. [78324]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with and receive representations from a wide range of stakeholders including the learning disability sector as part of the usual policymaking process.

The Government welcome the work of the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, chaired by Andrew Dilnot, and its final report. The Government are currently considering these proposals, and plan to publish a response to the Commission's report alongside a social care White Paper in the spring.

To inform that response, the Department of Health has launched "Caring for our future: shared ambitions for care and support", and plans to engage with people who use care and support services, carers, local councils, care providers and the voluntary sector about the priorities for improving care and support. Representatives of the learning disability sector are actively contributing to these discussions.

Personal Savings

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with financial institutions the competitiveness of their savings products and the incentives which they offer to savers. [78621]

Mr Hoban: The Government understand the difficulties faced by savers in the current climate, and recognise the importance of a competitive market for savings products. Treasury Ministers regularly meet with representatives of financial institutions, and discuss the products offered to savers where it is appropriate to do so.

Private Sector: Pay

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on high salaries, bonuses and pension arrangements paid to prominent figures in the private sector. [78731]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply

The Government believe that executive remuneration that is well structured and rewards senior executives who contribute to long-term success is an important way of promoting sustainability and growth. However, there are concerns about the disconnect between how our largest listed companies perform and the rewards that are on offer and this is not sustainable.

On 19 September, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a discussion paper on executive remuneration. The paper explores the link between executive pay and company performance and invites views on how this link can be strengthened. Submissions are being sought by 25 November, after which the Government will consider their response.

Taxation

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effects of each of the tax changes made by his Department for the purpose of reducing the deficit on each income decile since May 2010; and what the average annual effect per capita is of such changes on persons in each of those deciles; [75653]

(2) what proportion of planned reductions in *(a)* public expenditure and *(b)* benefits he estimates will be borne by each income decile; and what the minimum annual income is of each decile group. [75695]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* It is the impact of the tax and benefit system as a whole that is important for households. Over the last three fiscal events the Government have published detailed analysis of the distributional impacts of reforms for tax, tax credit and benefit changes, and has shown the cumulative impacts of these reforms on households. Charts A.2 and A.3 of Budget 2011 show the most recent analysis by income decile, and present estimates in cash terms and as a percentage of net income. This analysis shows that, when looking at the cumulative impact of reforms introduced by this Government, it is clear that the top decile contributes the most to the fiscal consolidation, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of net income.

Chart A.6 of Budget 2011 shows the Government's best estimate of the overall impact of reforms on households, including changes to public services. Due to data limitations analysis is shown at a quintile level to limit the number of assumptions that have been made.

Income deciles are calculated by ordering households by their income and dividing them into 10 equally sized groups. As households with more individuals require higher levels of household income and expenditure to achieve the same standard of living, an internationally standard process of adjustment called equalisation is used to ensure households are compared on an equal basis. Further details on this can be found in the Data Sources document accompanying Budget 2011. The following table sets out the lower bounds for equivalised income deciles used at Budget 2011. Note these estimates have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

As this is equivalised income, the ranges below do not show net (or gross) incomes for households within the bands. Rather for a particular decile they contain a wider range of net incomes, some of which will lie outside of the bands themselves. For example, a household with a combined net income of £25,000 containing a couple and two children aged seven and 15 years old would have an equivalised net income of around £16,340. This is calculated as follows:

Factor: 0.67 + 0.33 + 0.20 + 0.33 = 1.53.

Equivalised net income: £25,000/1.53 = £16,340.

Given this, it is not valid to interpret the bands as net (or gross) incomes or make statements on the impacts of policies using that interpretation.

Income decile	£
2	13,000
3	16,000
4	18,000
5	20,000
6	23,000
7	26,000
8	31,000
9	37,000
10	48,000

VAT: Medical Treatments

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the inability of NHS trusts to recover VAT on medical treatments compared to the ability of dispensing pharmacists to do so; and what representations he has received from patients and pharmacists on collection of prescriptions from their local pharmacists which are taken into hospitals to be administered. [78844]

Mr Gauke: The Government keep all tax matters under review. The general principles are that the provision of free health care and the dispensing of medication by an NHS hospital are not treated as being a "business" activity for VAT purposes. Consequently, the NHS is unable to recover from HMRC the VAT it incurs on drugs. However, the funding that NHS bodies receive from the Department of Health takes account of this irrecoverable VAT.

The dispensing of drugs by a pharmacist is a business activity for VAT purposes and is zero-rated provided that the drugs are dispensed for the personal use of the patient on the prescription of an appropriate practitioner. In these circumstances the pharmacist will be able to recover from HMRC the VAT they have been charged on the purchase of the drugs.

Working Tax Credit: Older Workers

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people working *(a)* between 16 and 29 hours per week and *(b)* over 30 hours per week in (i) England, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) Dudley borough are in receipt of the working tax credit 50+ return to work payment. [78332]

Mr Gauke: The following table provides the requested information for 2009-10—the latest finalised year for which data are available.

Average number of households in receipt of the 50+ return to work elements (2009-10)

	Dudley Borough	*West Midlands*	*England*
Between 16 and 29 hours	20	525	5,139
Over 30 hours per week	39	760	6,528

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adam Werritty

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78870]

Mr Davey: No Ministers, special advisers or the Permanent Secretary have had any meetings with Mr Adam Werritty. Disproportionate costs would be incurred in checking whether any officials had ever met him but it is considered unlikely.

Basic Skills

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to improve adult literacy and numeracy. [78768]

Mr Hayes: The Government are continuing to fund courses for adults who lack basic literacy and numeracy skills, so that they can get the skills they need to function in society, progress onto further training and employment, and to operate more productively in work.

Following the publication of "Skills for Sustainable Growth", the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has been undertaking a review of literacy and numeracy provision for adults in order to improve economic and personal returns through making this provision more effective.

Business: Employment Tribunals

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the findings of the British Chambers of Commerce Workforce Survey: Small Businesses, on the frequency with which small businesses face the prospect of employment tribunals. [78497]

Mr Davey: We are aware from the Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications 2008, published by the Department, that 36% of employment tribunal claims related to organisations with less than 50 employees.

The Government understand that small businesses are likely to feel the impact of employment laws more than larger businesses, so we are considering whether more needs to be done to discourage unmeritorious claims, as part of proposals to encourage employers and employees to settle disputes before they get to tribunal. We will publish the Government response to the recent consultation on Resolving Workplace Disputes in the coming weeks. Discussions with key stakeholders, including business organisations, were ongoing throughout the consultation period.

Business: Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1343W, on business: entry clearances, from which organisations he has received representations about the impact of the tier 2 limit on business forward planning. [78288]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has ongoing contact with business representatives from across all sectors on a range of issues including migration.

Since June 2011 we have had representations about the impact of the tier 2 limit on business forward planning from one company in the IT industry and one company in the manufacturing sector.

Business: Surveys

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the findings of the British Chambers of Commerce report entitled, 'Workforce Survey—Small Businesses' relating to small business owners' perception of the flexibility of the UK labour market compared to that of other EU member states and the US. [79022]

Mr Davey: We have examined as far as possible all of the comparable international evidence on labour market flexibility. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Jobs Study Review of 2006 summarises most of this evidence in 'Boosting jobs and income—policy lessons from reassessing the OECD Jobs Strategy' and I draw attention to some of the following conclusions in it:

> "The experience over the past two decades shows that there is no single combination of policies and institutions to achieve and maintain good labour market performance. For example, it is not necessary that all individual policies are aimed at strong labour market performance, provided that adverse stances in some policy areas are more than compensated for by favourable settings in

other areas, e.g. by exploiting policy interactions. This allows some scope to tailor policy packages to suit national preferences with respect to equity, risk-taking and other objectives. However, in practice there are few feasible policy combinations to achieve satisfactory employment outcomes."

The study also identified the UK as a 'successful employment performer' and suggested that it fell into a group of countries that are 'market reliant' which include light employment protection in its policy package. Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States are the other countries identified in this group by the OECD.

The OECD also identified another group of countries as 'successful performers' with different but successful policy packages. These include Austria, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

The Government, through their employment law and growth reviews, aim to build upon this and foster greater employment and growth.

Common and Leasehold Reform Act 2002

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department has any plans to review the operation of the Common and Leasehold Reform Act 2002. [77723]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

Part 1 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 created commonhold as a freehold alternative to long leasehold ownership for flats and other interdependent properties. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for this Part of the Act. Part 2 of the Act introduced new rights and protections for residential leaseholders and is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Government have no plans to review the Act but existing regulations in the leasehold sector are being scrutinised as part of the major cross-government exercise known as the 'Red Tape Challenge'.

Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to support the construction industry. [78358]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 463W.

Counterfeit Manufacturing: Trade Agreements

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his proposed timetable is for signing and ratifying the anti-counterfeiting trade agreement. [78606]

Mr Davey: The Government are considering their position following the recent parliamentary scrutiny clearance of the European Commission's proposals for the signing and agreement of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for scrutiny of the anti-counterfeiting trade agreement. [78607]

Mr Davey: The European Commission's proposals for the signing and agreement of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement were submitted to the House of Commons and House of Lords EU Select Committees for parliamentary scrutiny on 14 July 2011. The proposals cleared scrutiny in the House of Commons on 9 September 2011 and in the House of Lords on 14 October 2011.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75647]

Mr Davey: Since May 2010, the Department has recorded spend of £11,819 against the specific ledger code for the direct advertising of job vacancies.

The Department does not separately identify advertising costs which form part of a departmental or cross-Government recruitment campaign and, therefore, cannot provide any additional response without incurring disproportionate costs.

Data Protection

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 221-22W, on departmental data protection, for what reasons a bookkeeper was provided with access to a Minister's diary; and if he will name the Minister and bookkeeper concerned. [78613]

Vince Cable: The Minister's diary contains both their official and personal engagements. Sending it to the Minister's bookkeeper retrospectively enables them to keep track of the Minister's affairs.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77352]

Mr Davey: Central records show the following items lost or stolen since May 2010:

(a) Computers: seven

(b) Mobiles: No central records available

(c) BlackBerrys: 49

(d) Other IT: three (3G cards).

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in his Department. [74912]

Mr Davey: The total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances is approximately £10,581,415 per annum, based on current staff numbers.

This figure is an estimate based on the current weighting element of £3,500 which is included in our London pay rates and pension and employer-related national insurance contributions. To obtain an accurate figure for pension and national insurance costs would involve checking individual records and would entail disproportionate costs.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [76592]

Mr Davey: The following table shows the number of civil servants in the Department of Business, Innovation of Skills (BIS) who received an increase in salary other than by promotion in 2010 and 2011.

	Number of staff receiving a salary increase	*Average increase*	
		Percentage	*Amount (£)*
2010-11	[1]1,905	2.4	888
2011-12	[2]1,492	2.3	857

[1] The figures above include civil servants working for BIS who received the annual pay award as of 1 August. There may be other instances where individuals may have received a pay increase at different times in the each of the above years due to completion of their probationary period or a late payment of the annual pay award due to a return to BIS payroll from absence. This information is not held centrally so to provide this additional information would entail disproportionate cost.

[2] This is not the final figure for 2011-12 as there as a small number of outstanding payments due to be processed this year.

BIS entered the two-year pay freeze for civil service staff in 2010. Under the pay freeze guidance staff on full-time equivalent earnings of under £21,000 a year are eligible for a pay increase of at least £250.

Progression payments have also been made to a proportion of BIS staff outside the senior civil service in both 2010 and 2011 where they have a contractual entitlement.

Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [74994]

Mr Davey: In 2010-11, the Department spent a total of £60,308 on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67224]

Mr Davey: BIS, including UK Trade & Investment, has advertised 100% (15 of its 15) *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) contract requirements on Contracts Finder since the website's inception. Of these seven were core-BIS contracts and eight were UKTI contracts.

BIS and UKTI policy is to procure through existing frameworks where they exist. Such advertisements are not required to be published on Contracts Finder.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to increase the number of small suppliers through its procurement processes. [74637]

Mr Davey: BIS is fully committed to supporting the raft of initiatives announced by the Prime Minister on 11 February 2011 at the Small Business summit. We are currently working with Cabinet Office colleagues on optimising opportunities through procurement processes.

"Value for money" is the deciding factor when we award contracts competitively but, given our wider responsibility, we strongly encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to bid for departmental contracts they believe they could fulfil.

Details of practical actions include:

Ongoing use of the Contracts Finder website launched in February. Contracts Finder is a free facility for SMEs to find online public sector procurement and subcontracting opportunities above £10,000 in a single location.

Prompt payment targets. Prompt payment is vital to businesses and is of particular importance to small businesses and SMEs. To support our suppliers, the Department aims to pay all invoices within five working days. In the period April to September this year, an average of 94.6% of all invoices were paid within this target period.

For suitable contracts, BIS aims going forward to notify its tendering requirements in advance by use of a prior information notice (PIN) for its *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) procurements. This will provide a greater degree of notice to the market, enabling small businesses and SMEs to be better placed to bid as either prime or subcontractors.

BIS is currently running an 'Open' OJEU procurement exercise in close co-ordination with the Cabinet Office team responsible for SME issues. The Open procedure does not utilise a pre-qualification stage, reducing the administrative burden for bidders, including SMEs, when bidding for Government opportunities. We are looking to commence another two Open procedures within the next three months.

To help SMEs to build skills and capacity and to help such businesses access public procurement opportunities more generally, BIS has designed, with input from across both the public and private sectors, a free online public procurement training course "Winning the Contract" available on the Businesslink website at:

http://www1.learndirect-business.com/business-courses/winning-the-contract

The course is a free, nationally available resource which aims to make the public procurement process more transparent and more accessible to small businesses.

Innovation Strategy

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish his Department's strategy for innovation. [75807]

Mr Willetts: The Department intends to publish its Innovation and Research Strategy later this year.

Written Questions

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many questions for written answer on a named day were submitted to his Department between 10 May 2010 and 31 October 2011; and how many were answered within the specified time period. [78794]

Mr Davey: The Department aims to answer named day questions on the date specified by the Member. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will usually be preferable to provide an answer a few days late than to provide an incomplete answer. During the period 10 May 2010-31 October 2011 a total of 1,469 named day parliamentary questions were due for answer of which 969 (66%) received a substantive reply on the date requested by the Member.

The figures have been drawn from the Department's database which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Franchises

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to promote franchising as a business model. [78269]

Mr Prisk: Detailed guidance on franchising has been published on the following website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

in partnership with the British Franchising Association. More specific guidance on franchising for new businesses and those thinking of starting a business will appear on the new My New Business area of the site when launched on 14 November 2011. A new syndication offer will also be launched on 25 November that will enable third party organisations to reuse all content on the Business Link website free of charge, including content relating to franchising.

We are transforming the way that we enable people to receive the information, advice and guidance they need to start and grow their business. Our new approach to Government services and advice for business is based on: digital services which provide high quality information and advice, accessible when businesses need them; and face to face advice provided by business people for business people, not by the public sector.

We are:

Revamping the Business Link website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

introducing two new online services; a dedicated "My New Business" area developed by experts to provide training, tools and checklists for those looking to start a business; and the new Growth and Improvement Service which will provide new tools to help businesses understand the issues they face, plus a business support and an events finder tool so businesses can find out what is available to them locally.

Establishing a national helpline to help people find what they need on the web and for those who cannot access the web.

Encouraging businesses to seek a business mentor to help them develop their business and encouraging mentoring organisations to offer access to their mentors through a mentoring portal:

www.mentorsme.co.uk

Setting up a new Business Coaching for Growth (BCG) Programme to enable small businesses with high growth potential to realise their potential.

Further Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial support is available to adult learners undertaking non-science, technology, engineering and medical access to higher education courses in further education colleges. [77361]

Mr Hayes: Further education colleges receive discretionary learner support (DLS) funding for the purpose of helping those adult learners who are in most need of financial support to enter and remain in study. In 2011/12, colleges have been allocated DLS funding amounting to approximately £101 million. The responsibility for making awards from DLS funding sits with colleges, who are best placed to assess the needs of their learners.

Higher Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that higher education institutions charging in excess of £6,000 per annum for tuition from September 2012 are sharing best practice on widening participation. [77801]

Mr Willetts: Institutions intending to charge more than the £6,000 basic amount for tuition must first demonstrate to the independent Director of Fair Access what more they will do to attract students from disadvantaged backgrounds. These plans are finalised in approved Access Agreements.

The powers of the director of fair access were established by the Higher Education Act 2004 and include a power to identify good practice in connection with access to higher education and to give advice about such practice.

Ministers at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills wrote to the director of fair access on 10 February 2011 setting out the Government's expectations about how he should approach the approval and monitoring of new access agreements. The guidance set out significantly increased expectations for the priority that institutions should give to fair access and widening participation. In particular we identified the effectiveness of collaborative working on widening participation, recognising that many institutions were already doing this and that access agreements should build on that work. We also highlighted that such collaboration also encourages the sharing of good practice. The director mirrored Governments' advice in his own guidance to the sector in March on how to develop access agreements.

The Government have committed through the recent White Paper 'Students at the Heart of the System' (June 2011) to strengthen the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), so that it can provide more active and energetic challenge and support to universities and colleges. We will want to work with the director on the size and structure of OFFA but will make significantly more resources available, increasing capacity up to around four times its original level. This would equip OFFA to use fully its powers to monitor and review access agreements and identify and promote best, evidence-based practice.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the international reputation of British universities of his proposal to grant degree awarding powers to institutions which do not provide teaching or research. [78637]

Mr Willetts: The aim of the Government's proposals for higher education reform, including the proposal to decouple degree awarding powers from teaching, is to drive greater diversity and competition to improve the range and quality of provision available to students while safeguarding the strong international reputation of English universities. Any organisation, including non-teaching bodies, wishing to acquire taught degree awarding powers will, as now, have to meet specific criteria to determine if it is fit to exercise the powers being sought. We are currently reviewing the degree awarding powers criteria as part of those reforms but believe that broadly the same principles as set out in the current criteria can and should apply and that the key principles will be applicable to non-teaching bodies as well.

Higher Education Funding Council

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 215-6W, on the Higher Education Funding Council, when he expects data on future funding for *(a)* postgraduate research, *(b)* postgraduate taught masters and *(c)* PhD student numbers for (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15 to be available; and if he will make a statement. [77508]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) receives notification from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) of its overall budget allocation in advance of each new financial year. HEFCE will announce its funding allocations, including for postgraduate provision, for the relevant academic year once it has considered any guidance provided by BIS on the use of its annual grant.

Higher Education: Admissions

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications have been submitted by residents of *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* the borough of Middlesbrough, *(c)* the borough of Redcar and Cleveland, *(d)* the Tees Valley and *(e)* the north-east in the 2011-12 admissions cycle to date; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [77543]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants to UCAS as at October 15 by parliamentary constituency/region

	Admission cycle	
Area of domicile	*2010-11*[2]	*2011-12*[3]
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency[1]	74	68
The borough of Middlesbrough	54	31
The borough of Redcar and Cleveland	53	45
The Tees Valley	410	322
The north-east	1,827	1,558

[1] Parliamentary constituency has been identified using the home postcode regardless of declared area of permanent residence.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012.

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

Insolvency

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses were *(a)* liquidated and *(b)* put into administration in each year between 2000-01 and 2010-11. [78751]

Mr Davey: Official statistics are published around calendar years, and figures for *(a)* compulsory and creditors' voluntary liquidations and *(b)* administrations are presented in the Quarterly Insolvency Statistics, the latest publication of which covers 2001 to 2010 and can be found on the Insolvency Service website here:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/201108/index.htm

Tables 1, 4 and 6 cover liquidations in England and Wales (E&W), Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively; tables 3 and 5 cover administrations in E&W and Scotland, respectively. Official statistics for administrations in Northern Ireland are not available.

Annual figures for 2011 will be available from 3 February 2012, and historic data are also published covering years before 2001.

Insolvency Service: Regulation

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to review the regulation of the Insolvency Service. [79256]

Mr Davey: At present operation of the Insolvency Service is regulated through the requirement to produce, and lay in Parliament, an annual corporate plan, as well as annual fees orders, which set the fees charged by official receivers for their work in dealing with bankruptcy and insolvency case administration. For the Services' work in company investigation and enforcement, and redundancy payments, funding is set through allocations made from BIS and HMRC respectively and the level of this allocation is made in response to submissions from the Service to each Department, as part of their wider budget setting.

For all areas of the Service, the corporate plan sets out its vision for delivering services, with particular emphasis on its plans and targets for the coming year. The plan is reviewed by BIS to ensure that its goals are realistic and that targets are achievable within the resources available, and yet are set at a level to stretch the organisation and not allow complacency.

Performance against the targets and budgets thus set is reported to the Minister on a quarterly basis.

There are no plans to make substantive changes to this reporting process.

Nanotechnology

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the status is of the UK Nanotechnologies Strategy published in March 2010. [78387]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* The UK Nanotechnologies Strategy of March 2010 has been a useful source of views and input that has informed our thinking on nanotechnology, which has evolved, and is underpinned by the view that nano-scale technologies should be thought of on a case-by-case basis given the wide range of materials and processes with diverse properties, benefits and implications for health and the environment.

Together with Lord Taylor of Holbeach, I recently held a roundtable discussion to inform our thinking on how Government can in the future help industry have confidence to invest in successful and responsible commercialisation and for consumers to be confident that the manufacture, integration, use and subsequent disposal of nano-enabled products will not have adverse impacts on their health or the wider environment.

We are currently reflecting on the outcomes of this discussion, but the Government are committed to enabling the successful and responsible commercialisation of nano-scale technologies, and these technologies remain an important strand of activity across a number of Government Departments and partner bodies such as the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

Non-governmental Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much direct funding over £100,000 his Department provided to non-governmental organisations in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how much funding he plans to provide to such organisations in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [78505]

Mr Davey: The information is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of the winning bids to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund in each region. [78405]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* It is not possible to provide final information on the monetary value of each winning bids to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) in each region as the offer of a grant is conditional and will be finalised once contracts are signed. However, a list of successful second round of RGF bidders by region is available on the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/RGF

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* Departments were represented at meetings held by the ministerial group chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister to consider recommended bids for the second round of the Regional Growth Fund put forward by its Independent Advisory Panel; [79282]

(2) how many meetings were held by the Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister to consider recommended bids for the second round of the Regional Growth Fund; and on what dates such meetings took place. [79281]

Mr Prisk: The ministerial group has met a number of times to consider all bids submitted in both rounds and the independent panel recommendations; all the relevant Departments were represented.

Regional Growth Fund: Job Creation

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology his Department used to calculate the figures for indirect job creation from the winning bids announced from the second round of the Regional Growth Fund. [78403]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* All of the figures for indirect job creation from the winning bids announced from the second round of the Regional Growth Fund on 31 October 2011 were taken directly from the bids submitted from successful bidders. Where direct or indirect jobs were incorrectly classified, jobs were put under the correct heading. Progress towards the Job Target specified in the Grant Offer Letter will be monitored quarterly.

Executive Pay

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 590W, on companies, if he will bring forward proposals to encourage active shareholder participation in annual general meetings for the purposes of scrutinising *(a)* executive remuneration, *(b)* corporate performance and *(c)* related shareholder value. [79210]

Mr Davey: On 19 September, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a discussion paper on executive remuneration in large listed companies. The paper explores the link between executive pay and company performance and invites views on how this link can be strengthened. It includes a range of proposals designed to empower shareholders with the tools and information they need to be active company owners.

Submissions are being sought by 25 November, after which the Government will consider their response.

Students: Fees and Charges

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has conducted an equality impact assessment of the proposed changes to further education fee structures with regards to access to higher education courses. [79225]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills recently conducted a public consultation on further education (FE) loans, as part of a wider consultation on FE strategy called 'New Challenges, New Chances'. The consultation on FE loans asked for views on whether the introduction of loans would create any particular barriers to those wanting to access learning. The Department has also commissioned research on the potential impact of FE loans. Responses to the public consultation and the findings of the research will be used to inform an equality impact assessment of the FE loans policy, to be published in April 2012.

Student Loans Company

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with the Student Loans Company on improving its customer service since May 2010. [77615]

Mr Willetts: The Department is committed to supporting the Student Loans Company (SLC) in its efforts to deliver a more successful Student Finance England service and to ensure students and their families get the service they need.

The Department's officials have regular discussions with SLC to review its performance and efficiency, including the Student Finance England service.

Students: Loans

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to tackle delays in processing student loan applications experienced by some new students. [76749]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company (SLC) is responsible for administering the student finance service on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable). By 14 October 2011, SLC had received 1,001,000 eligible applications for core financial support from English-domiciled students for the 2011/12 academic year, of which 904,000 (90%) had been prepared for payment to be made once attendance on the course had been confirmed by the university or college.

SLC is committed to continuously improving its performance and is implementing a number of measures to improve the quality of service it delivers. This includes improved training for staff, simpler web-based information, advice and guidance, and processing improvements, including to ICT based systems. This year SLC introduced an electronic link with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to automatically verify household income, meaning that SLC was able to process the majority of new students' applications for means-tested support without asking customers to send in financial evidence.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79068]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office began its programme of grants to charitable organisations from 2007-08. A list of direct grants to organisations for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (not including funds passed to arm's length bodies to distribute as grant funding on behalf of the Cabinet Office) has been placed in the Library of the House. For grants in 2010-11, I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 733W.

Civil Servants: European Union

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of civil servants in the UK work primarily on EU matters *(a)* in each Government Department and *(b)* at civil service grade; and if he will make a statement. [78603]

Mr Maude: Information on the numbers of civil servants in the UK working primarily on EU matters is not held centrally. In the Cabinet Office, 32 staff in the European and Global Issues Secretariat are employed specifically on work that covers both European and wider global affairs which equates to 1.9% of the core Cabinet Office staff complement. This includes staff at the following grades:

1 x Perm Sec
1 x Director (SCS2)
3 x Deputy Director (SCS1)
15 x Band A (Grade 6/7)
4 x Band B2(HEO/SEO)
2 x BandB1 (EO)
6 x Band C (AA/AO)

Death: Pancreatic Cancer

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) between 14 to 16, (ii) between 17 and 21, (iii) between 22 and 24, (iv) between 25 and 30, (v) between 31 and 35, (vi) between 36 and 40 and (vii) over 41 years died from pancreatic cancer in each health authority area in each year since 1990. [78679]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females aged (i) between 14 to 16, (ii) between 17 and 21, (iii) between 22 and 24, (iv) between 25 and 30, (v) between 31 and 35, (vi) between 36 and 40 and (vii) over 41 years died from pancreatic cancer in each health authority area in each year since 1990, broken down by health authority. (78679)

Tables 1 and 2 provide the number of deaths where pancreatic cancer was the underlying cause of death for (a) males (Table 1) and (b) females (Table 2) aged (i) 14 to 40 years and (ii) 41 years and over, for primary care organisations in England and local health boards in Wales, for 1990 to 2010 (the latest year available). Figures for young age groups have been combined due to small numbers of events, in line with the ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

Copies of Tables 1 and 2 have been placed in the House of Commons Library. Table 3 attached provides the number of deaths where pancreatic cancer was the underlying cause of death for (a) males and (b) females aged (i) 14 to 16 years, (ii) 17 to 21 years, (iii) 22 to 24 years, (iv) 25 to 30 years, (v) 31 to -35 years, (vi) 36 to 40 years and (vii) 41 years and over, in England and Wales, for 1990 to 2010.

Table 3. Number of deaths where the underlying cause was pancreatic cancer: by sex and age group, England and Wales, 1990 to 2010[1, 2, 3]

Deaths (persons)

	14 to 16	*17 to 21*	*22 to 24*	*25 to 30*	*31 to 35*	*36 to 40*	*41+*
Males							
1990	0	0	0	3	6	7	2,866
1991	0	0	0	3	4	12	2,823
1992	0	0	0	4	3	18	2,815
1993	2	0	0	2	4	13	2,780
1994	0	0	0	1	4	15	2,718
1995	0	0	0	3	5	13	2,717
1996	0	0	1	2	6	12	2,784
1997	1	0	0	1	5	17	2,743
1998	0	0	0	2	8	19	2,769
1999	0	0	1	0	3	20	2,767
2000	0	0	0	2	9	14	2,941
2001	0	0	0	1	9	22	2,822
2002	0	0	0	0	4	20	2,943
2003	0	0	0	2	8	18	3,028
2004	0	0	0	1	5	14	3,013
2005	0	0	1	0	6	14	3,072
2006	0	1	0	1	5	14	3,237
2007	1	1	0	3	4	16	3,289
2008	0	0	0	2	3	12	3,359
2009	0	0	0	2	5	12	3,448
2010	1	0	0	2	3	18	3,422
Females							
1990	0	1	2	0	5	14	3,024
1991	0	0	0	2	5	10	2,973
1992	0	1	1	2	3	17	2,998
1993	0	0	0	3	7	12	2,954
1994	0	1	1	0	3	9	2,977
1995	1	0	0	3	4	9	3,017
1996	0	0	1	3	4	10	3,009
1997	0	1	0	2	4	12	2,956
1998	0	0	0	0	6	10	2,947
1999	0	0	0	0	4	13	3,089
2000	0	0	0	1	2	10	3,084
2001	0	0	1	0	2	8	3,137
2002	0	0	0	1	4	17	3,156
2003	0	0	0	0	5	8	3,164
2004	0	1	0	4	4	11	3,243
2005	0	0	0	2	1	11	3,372
2006	0	0	0	0	3	6	3,305
2007	0	0	1	0	3	8	3,514
2008	0	0	0	1	3	7	3,535
2009	0	0	0	0	4	12	3,653
2010	0	0	0	3	3	14	3,596

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 157 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C25.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued; [78872]

(2) in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010; [78855]

(3) which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information made under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78856]

Mr Maude: Quarterly and annual statistics on the handling of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) by central Government, including the Cabinet Office, are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

> www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

A breakdown of the information along the lines requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of responses since January 2010 where the Cabinet Office gave the following reasons in response to requests for information under the FOIA are (a) commercial sensitivity: 47; (b) information not held: 441; (c) information too costly to provide: 277; and (d) vexatious or repeated requests: four.

Cabinet Office officials normally determine whether the exemptions at part II of the FOIA should apply to responses to requests for information received under the FOIA. The exemption at section 36 of the FOIA (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs) can, however, only apply if in the reasonable view of a 'qualified person' disclosure of the information being requested would have one of the specified prejudicial effects. In the case of the Cabinet Office, the 'qualified person' is a Minister of the Crown.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77709]

Mr Maude: The Minister for the Cabinet Office does not receive external funding for: *(a)* his ministerial office; or *(b)* his advisers.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which post in his Department is responsible for overseeing the security clearance vetting process for staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* 10 Downing Street; how many staff report to this post; and at what civil service grades. [78034]

Mr Maude: The departmental security officer (DSO), a senior civil servant in the Cabinet Office, is responsible for overseeing the national security vetting process for Cabinet Office staff, including those in the Prime Minister's Office.

Three members of staff are engaged on national security vetting work and report to the DSO.

Public Sector: Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to encourage public sector organisations outside central Government to reduce the use of pre-qualification questionnaires. [77658]

Mr Maude: At an SME Strategic Supplier summit held on 11 February, we announced a series of measures to make it easier for SMEs to compete for Government contracts, available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/government-opens-contracts-small-business

Public sector organisations outside central Government are responsible for their own procurement decisions, but many choose to follow central Government policies and practices. Baroness Eaton, while chair of the Local Government Group, signalled local government support for the measures the Government announced on 11 February, particularly the use of a shortened, simplified and standard set of core questions to be used in pre-qualification.

Suicide

Liz Kendall: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of suicide per 100,000 population was by sex in each *(a)* month, *(b)* quarter and *(c)* year since 2007-08 to date; and what the total number of suicides was in each such period. [78572]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what has been the rate of suicide per 100,000 population by sex in each (a) month, (b) quarter and (c) year since 2007-08 to date; and what the total number of suicides was in each such period. (78572)

Tables 1 to 3 provide the age-standardised rate per million population and the number of suicides for males and females aged 15 years and over, in each (a) month (Table 1), (b) quarter (Table 2) and (c) year (Table 3), in England and Wales, for 2007 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Rates have been provided per million population due to small numbers of events in each month.

Annual mortality statistics are usually based on deaths registered in each calendar year (January to December) for timeliness. However, figures provided in this Answer are based on suicides that occurred in each period until the end of 2009, which is more appropriate for seasonal analyses. This also takes account of late registrations following coroner inquests. Therefore, figures may differ from the annual suicide data already published on the ONS website at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/subnational-health4/suicides-in-the-united-kingdom/2009/index.html

Table 1. Age-standardised suicide rate per million population and number of suicides for persons aged 15 years and over: by sex and month, England and Wales, 2007 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

	2007		2008		2009	
	Rate per million	*Number*	*Rate per million*	*Number*	*Rate per million*	*Number*
Males						
January	13	279	14	308	15	316
February	12	256	12	256	11	237
March	12	250	13	292	12	251
April	14	297	13	289	13	295
May	14	294	14	309	14	303
June	14	298	13	288	12	264
July	13	269	14	314	12	265
August	12	255	12	263	12	264
September	11	237	12	260	11	253
October	10	215	12	255	11	244
November	9	193	9	189	10	228
December	9	200	11	245	9	203
Females						
January	4	86	4	85	4	99
February	4	98	4	104	3	80
March	3	79	4	98	3	79
April	4	87	4	87	3	72
May	4	84	5	106	3	78

Table 1. Age-standardised suicide rate per million population and number of suicides for persons aged 15 years and over: by sex and month, England and Wales, 2007 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

	2007		2008		2009	
	Rate per million	*Number*	*Rate per million*	*Number*	*Rate per million*	*Number*
June	4	92	4	81	4	85
July	3	63	5	103	3	78
August	3	73	4	84	3	69
September	3	74	4	81	4	95
October	3	70	4	88	4	90
November	3	64	3	65	4	87
December	3	58	3	68	3	58

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per million population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths which occurred in each month. Deaths were excluded where the month of occurrence was unknown.

Table 2. Age-standardised suicide rate per million population and number of suicides for persons aged 15 years and over: by sex and quarter, England and Wales, 2007 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Rate per million	*Number*	*Rate per million*	*Number*	*Rate per million*	*Number*
Males						
January-March	36	785	39	856	37	804
April-June	41	889	40	886	39	862
July-September	35	761	39	837	36	782
October-December	28	608	32	689	31	675
Females						
January-March	11	263	13	287	11	258
April-June	12	263	12	274	10	235
July-September	9	210	12	268	11	242
October-December	8	192	9	221	10	235

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per million population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths which occurred in each quarter. Deaths were excluded where the month of occurrence was unknown.

Table 3. Age-standardised suicide rate per million population and number of suicides for persons aged 15 years and over: by sex, England and Wales, 2007 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Rate per million	*Number*
Males		
2007	141	3,045
2008	150	3,270
2009	143	3,123
Females		
2007	40	928
2008	46	1,050
2009	41	970

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per million population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths which occurred in each calendar year. Deaths were included where the month of occurrence was unknown.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr Byrne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people under the age of 25 years were *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* claiming jobseekers' allowance in each month since May 2010 by (i) region and (ii) constituency. [79153]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people under the age of 25 years were (a) unemployed and (b) claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in each month since May 2010 by (i) region and (ii) constituency. (79153)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Estimates of unemployment for the requested age group are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1 shows the levels of young people aged 16 to 24 years who were unemployed and resident in each government office region for the 12 month periods ending March 2010 and March 2011 from the APS.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Tables 2&3 show, the number of young people aged 16 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in each government office region and constituency respectively in each month since May 2010 up to the latest period available in September 2011. As the information requested is quite extensive, a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. The number of people aged 16-24 unemployed in each region.

	12 months to March 2010	12 months to March 2011
North-east	48,112	48,606
North-west	120,865	109,742
Yorkshire and The Humber	90,992	82,756
East midlands	65,511	63,755
West midlands	89,943	86,842
East	75,969	68,001
London	114,921	109,389
South-east	108,208	98,166
South-west	66,917	59,658
Wales	49,377	49,197
Scotland	70,855	84,700
Northern Ireland	21,342	22,346

Source:
Annual Population Survey

Voluntary Work: Young People

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which National Citizen Service pilot projects operating in summer 2012 will charge participants to participate; and how much each such project plans to charge each participant. [79008]

Mr Hurd: Approximately half of the National Citizen Service pilot projects in 2012 are trialling the use of small individual fundraising targets for young people, refundable deposits or fees in order to promote young people's commitment to the programme. All pilots have measures in place including bursaries and waivers to ensure that ability to pay is never a barrier to participation in the programme.

NCS pilot provider name	*Individual fundraising target or fee (£)*	*Refundable deposit (£)*
Academy of Youth	25	n/a
Bolton Lads and Girls Club	30	n/a
Catch22	n/a	n/a
Changemakers	30	—
Connexions Cumbria Ltd	n/a	n/a
Engage4Life Consortium	n/a	n/a
Envision	n/a	20
Football League Trust	50	n/a
Future Foundations Training Ltd	50	n/a
Fylde Coast YMCA	n/a	n/a
Global Action Plan	50	n/a
Groundwork UK	50	n/a
Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade	n/a	50
Lincolnshire and Rutland Education Business Partnership	n/a	n/a
Luton Culture	n/a	n/a
National Youth Agency	n/a	n/a
New College Nottingham	80	n/a
Oxfordshire County Council	n/a	n/a
Partnership Network	50	[1]—
Petroc	n/a	[1]—
Safe in Tees Valley Ltd	n/a	n/a
Salford Foundation	n/a	n/a
Sefton CVS	n/a	n/a
The Challenge Network	35	n/a
Transitions Plus UK	n/a	n/a
v. The National Young Volunteers' Service	n/a	n/a
Young Devon Consortium	50	n/a
Young Lives	n/a	n/a
Your Consortium	n/a	n/a

[1] Small deposit, to be confirmed

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in which locations he proposes that National Citizen Service pilots will operate in summer 2012. [79010]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service pilots will take place in 95% of upper tier local authority areas in England in 2012. A full list of locations and providers will be published shortly on the Cabinet Office website.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* looked-after children and *(b)* care leavers participated in each National Citizen Service pilot in summer 2011. [79011]

Mr Hurd: Detailed figures across all 2011 pilots are not currently available but the largest NCS provider, The Challenge Network, which delivered over 3,100 places in 2011, reports that 3% of its participants had been looked-after children, indicating that participation among young people from this background was significantly higher than their prevalence in the population as a whole. The NCS is open to young people aged 15 to 16 in the summer after year 11.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Lobbying

Jon Trickett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* meetings he has had with lobbying firms about lobbying transparency. [78678]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have received no representations, nor had any meetings with lobbying firms about lobbying transparency.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by the Law Officers' Departments were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010; [79589]

(2) how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by the Law Officers' Departments have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010; [79590]

(3) whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in the Law Officers' Departments are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79591]

The Attorney-General: Since May 2010, the Attorney-General's Office has answered approximately 86% of the ordinary written questions it has received within a sitting week of being tabled. Of the ones that were answered later than this, none remained unanswered for a period of two months or longer.

The information requested on questions for named day answer is contained in the following table.

AGO parliamentary questions for answer on a named day

	Answered on time	*Five sitting days late*	*10 sitting days late*	*20 sitting days late*	*Over 30 sitting days late*
2010					
May	0	0	0	0	0
June	8	0	0	0	0
July	1	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	1	0	0	0
October	9	0	0	0	0
November	10	2	0	1	0
December	6	0	1	0	0
2011					
January	3	0	0	0	0
February	3	0	0	0	0
March	4	0	0	0	0
April	2	0	0	0	0
May	2	0	0	0	0
June	3	0	1	0	0
July	9	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0
September	2	0	0	0	0
October	4	1	0	0	0
Total	66	4	2	1	0

The Law Officers' Departments do not employ any special advisers.

PRIME MINISTER

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Prime Minister how many of his *(a)* officials and *(b)* special advisers accompanied him on his recent visit to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. [78276]

The Prime Minister: As set out in the Ministerial Code, details of my overseas travel are published quarterly.

Lord Young of Graffham

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether Lord Young has an office in No. 10 Downing street; and if he will make a statement; [78504]

(2) how many meetings at 10 Downing street Lord Young of Graffham attended between November 2010 and October 2011; and *(a)* what the purpose was and *(b)* who attended each such meeting. [78615]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow North West (John Robertson) on 3 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 730W.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Jon Trickett: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many special advisers in Pay Band Two have a salary *(a)* between £55,000 and £58,000 and *(b)* between £58,000 and £58,199; and in which Department each such adviser is based; [78670]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 110-13WS, on special advisers, what the name is of each special adviser in post on the most recent date for which information is available; and what the pay band or actual salary of the adviser is. [78832]

The Prime Minister: An updated list of special advisers, and their pay bands, is published quarterly. This is available on the Cabinet Office website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

HEALTH

Ambulances

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 192W, on ambulances, what assessment he has made of the involvement of the UK vehicle industry in the new emergency ambulance design. [78564]

Mr Simon Burns: The design of new emergency ambulance vehicles has been undertaken by the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design at the Royal College of Art, in conjunction with NHS London as a research partner, and with other stakeholders. The design process remains at prototype.

Care Homes

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contingency plans he has put in place in the event of the future financial failure of care home providers. [78728]

Paul Burstow: There are existing mechanisms for overseeing social care providers. Care home operators must be registered by the Care Quality Commission. Local authorities have legal duties to provide residential accommodation for people in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them, as set out in Section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

In the light of the recent experience of Southern Cross, the Department has published a discussion paper, "Oversight of the Social Care Market", a copy of which has been placed in the Library, to explore how best to ensure service continuity in social care. The discussion paper invites views on the issue by 2 December 2011.

Carers' Benefits: Suffolk

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health *(a)* how much and *(b)* what proportion of expenditure was spent by NHS Suffolk on the carers' grant in each year since 1997. [78274]

Paul Burstow: The carers' grant is paid to local authorities, not to the national health service. Since 2010-11 the funding has been paid to councils through the local government revenue support grant.

The following table shows the carers' grant allocated to Suffolk county council each year since the grant was set up in 1999:

Carers' grant allocated to Suffolk county council since 1999

	£
1999-2000	251,000
2000-01	580,000
2001-02	810,000
2002-03	984,000
2003-04	1,164,000
2004-05	1,450,000
2005-06	2,156,000
2006-07	2,216,000
2007-08	2,264,000
2008-09	2,859,000
2009-10	3,082,000
2010-11	3,310,000

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest 1,000

Dental Services: Schools

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reintroduce national school dental checks. [78617]

Mr Simon Burns: We are committed to improving the oral health of school children but have decided against the reintroduction of school screening checks. In 2006, the National Screening Committee (NSC) advised that the routine dental screening of children in primary schools was ineffective in improving children's oral health. The NSC found that children, who were identified as requiring treatment, were not accessing a general dental practice where it could be provided.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many times his Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011; [78058]

(2) what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011; [78069]

(3) how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011; [78074]

(4) how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies; [78082]

(5) how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78090]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on how many times the Department has sought legal advice from external counsel, how many times the legal advice has been provided to Ministers, and how many times the Department has been taken to Court or the subject of a judicial review, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. To gather it would involve a retrieval of non-electronic files and then a search over a three and a half year period by legally qualified personnel.

The Department made payments of £3,287,741 to Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Treasury Solicitors and other Government Departments for internal legal advice for the first six calendar months of 2011. This may include payments to barristers commissioned by DWP on behalf of the Department.

The Department made payments of £4,622,309 to external commercial legal advisers in the same period. This may exclude some payments to barristers that are commissioned by DWP and included in the payments to DWP.

Figures for departmental expenditure on legal advice can be provided from July 2008 onwards as this was the point when the Department's Central Procurements Database became operational; to provide figures for earlier periods would involve a file search and thus disproportionate cost. This information is presented here and includes expenditure with external commercial advisers; (DWP) Treasury Solicitors and other Government Departments. The database is unable to provide information separately regarding payments to counsel:

2008 July to December: £4,455,488.39

2009: £9,411,355.43

2010: £13,365,283.46

2011 January to June: £7,910,050.254.

The following table shows how many staff were working in the legal departments of the Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies:

Agency/non-departmental bodies	*How many staff were working in the legal departments in June 2011*
Alcohol Education and Research Council	0
Appointments Commission	0
Care Quality Commission	25.8
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	0
General Social Care Council	6
Health Protection Agency	3
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	2.5
Human Tissue Authority	1
Monitor	6.6
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency[1]	6

[1] Denotes executive agency

Internal legal advice for the Department is obtained through a service level agreement (SLA) which the Department has with the DWP (i.e. from legal staff directly employed by DWP). Within the DWP, 78.83 full-time equivalent staff provide services to the Department of Health.

NDPBs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78115]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) do not employ civil servants directly.

The following table shows how many civil servants were otherwise employed by the Departments non-departmental public bodies in 2000, 2005, 2007, 2010 and on the most recent date for which figures are available.

Number

	Civil servants "otherwise employed"				
NDPB	*2000*	*2005*	*2007*	*2010*	*On the most recent date for which figures are available*
Alcohol Education and Research Council	0	0	0	0	0
Appointments Commission	n/a	n/a	8	0	0
Care Quality Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	1
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
General Social Care Council	n/a	0	1	0	0
Health Protection Agency	0	1	1	1	0
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	0	1	2	3	0
Human Tissue Authority	n/a	3	2	[1]3	[2]1.5
Monitor	n/a	1	1	0	0

[1] Outgoing/incoming chief executive officer's mid-year.

[2] Secondee ceased secondment end of September 2011.

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78112]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not have a record of statutory instruments made in 1990 or 1995. However, all statutory instruments are a matter of public record and can be viewed at:

www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi

Statutory instruments (including orders and regulations) made by the Department of Health

	Number
1999	177
2000	214
2001	402
2002	389
2003	189
2004	162
2005	139

Statutory instruments (including orders and regulations) made by the Department of Health

	Number
2006	135
2007	101
2008	131
2009	102
2010	114
2011 (January to October)	68

The Department also issues directions from the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley). These can be viewed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Directionsfromthesecretaryofstate/index.htm

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78048]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested for the Department of Health (DH) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is given in the following table. Earnings include base pay, allowances, non-consolidated performance pay and overtime payments.

Organisation	*Number of staff earning more than £65,000 and less than £95,000*	*Number of staff earning more than £95,000 and less than £140,000*	*Number of staff earning more than £140,000 and less than £175,000*	*Number of staff earning more than £175,000*
DH	288	54	15	7
MHRA	134	18	0	0

No civil servants are employed in the other bodies for which the Department is responsible.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78126]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is given in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of staff receiving a pay increase*	*Total base pay increase (£)*	*Average increase (£)*
2010-11	2,425	3,686,616	1,396
2011-12	84	60,662	25

The Department entered the two-year pay freeze for grades administration officer to grade 6 in 2011-12 with 2010-11 being the final year of a three year settlement. Base pay for senior civil servants was frozen in both years.

The exceptions to the pay freeze are staff on full-time equivalent earnings of under £21,000 a year who received an increase of £250 in 2011-12.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78134]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of civil servants receiving non-consolidated performance-related pay (NCPRP) in the financial years since 2007 is given in the following table.

Financial year	*Number receiving NCPRP*
2011-12[1]	702
2010-11	1,033
2009-10	1,162
2008-09	1,264
2007-08	754

[1] To 30 September 2011

Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's research and development budget was in each of the last five years; and what that budget will be for each year of the spending review period. [78776]

Mr Simon Burns: Expenditure from the Department's central research and development revenue budgets in the years from 2006-07 to 2010-11 is shown in the following table:

	£ million
2006-07	690
2007-08	763
2008-09	825
2009-10	885
2010-11	960

The Department's revenue allocations for research and development for each year of the spending review period are shown in the following table:

	£ million
2011-12	1,004
2012-13	1,030
2013-14	1,059
2014-15	1,089

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78370]

Mr Simon Burns: Information about unpaid and expenses-only internships is not collected centrally. These are arranged by directorates locally. It would incur disproportionate costs to collect the information requested.

The Department of Health took part in the civil service Whitehall Internship Scheme from 25 July to 5 August 2011, as part of the Government's social mobility strategy. The scheme was developed in response to a pledge in the coalition agreement to provide internships in every Whitehall Department for people from under-represented groups. The Department of Health provided opportunities for three people of school leaving age to work in our Whitehall office, giving them meaningful work experience and an insight into the civil service. The programme was a fully funded residential placement paid for by the Cabinet Office working directly in association with the Social Mobility Foundation. Expenses were met centrally.

Of the Department's 19 arm's length bodies (ALBs), only five have employed unpaid or expenses-only internships in the last 12 months for which figures are available, as shown in the following table:

ALB	*Number of unpaid internships*	*Number of expenses-only internships*
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	0	4
General Social Care Council	0	1
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	6	0
NHS Blood and Transplant	0	2
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency[1]	6	0

[1] Denotes executive agency

Diamorphine

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the 2010 Drug Strategy, Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery and the National Treatment Agency Action Plan 2011-12, what progress has been made on the commitment to explore the wider prescribing of diamorphine based on the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial conducted by the National Addiction Centre. [78792]

Anne Milton: Funding to take forward this commitment in the drug strategy has been identified for the period up until March 2015. The Department is organising a workshop to facilitate the exchange of information.

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether Ministers in his Department have any plans to visit the Channel Islands to discuss the implementation of the EU food supplements directive and the nutrition and health claims regulations; [78774]

(2) whether he has had discussions with representatives of the Government of *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey on their proposed timetable for implementing the EU food supplements directive and the nutrition and health claims regulations; and if he will make a statement; [78775]

(3) whether he has received any information from representatives of the Jersey and Guernsey governments on the implementation of the *(a)* food supplements directive and *(b)* nutrition and health regulations in their respective states; and if he will make a statement. [79050]

Anne Milton: As policy responsibility for the Crown dependencies lies with the Ministry of Justice, Health Ministers have not had discussions with the authorities in Jersey and Guernsey and have no plans to visit either Crown dependency on this issue at this time.

We understand that the Minister of State for Justice, my noble Friend Lord McNally, raised the implementation of the food supplements directive and the nutrition and health claims regulation with the authorities in Jersey and Guernsey. There have also been regular discussions at official level. The Ministry of Justice has received information from both Crown dependencies that they are taking the necessary steps to implement these European Union regulations at the earliest opportunity.

General Practitioners

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the Chair-elect of the NHS Commissioning Board on his participation in *(a)* discussions and *(b)* decisions with an effect on GPs; [78835]

(2) whether he has discussed with the Chair-elect of the NHS Commissioning Board *(a)* good governance of the Board and *(b)* handling of conflicts of interests in relation to GP contracts. [78836]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not discussed these issues with Professor Grant.

The Department will shortly publish a Framework Agreement with the NHS Commissioning Board Authority. This will include a requirement for executive and non-executive board members to operate within the corporate governance guidelines set out by HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office. It will also indicate that all staff and board members of the authority are to comply with the Cabinet Office's model code of conduct for staff of non-departmental public bodies, which includes guidance on conflicts of interest.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Coventry continue to use telephone numbers that charge patients more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the NHS. [79205]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no assessment of the proportion of general practitioner surgeries in England that use telephone numbers that charge patients more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the national health service.

The Department issued guidance and directions to national health service bodies in December 2009 on the cost of telephone calls, which prohibited the use of telephone numbers which charged the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the national health service. It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the directions and guidance.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that GP surgeries adhere to the amended general medical services regulations on the use of telephone numbers that charge patients more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the NHS. [79206]

Mr Simon Burns: It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that that general practitioner surgeries adhere to the amended general medical services regulations on the use of telephone numbers that charge patients more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the national health service.

Hair Dyes: Chemicals

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he holds on the number of injuries caused by para-phenylenediamine in hair dye products in each of the last five years. [79044]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally. However, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has advised that as of 4 November 2011, it had received one suspected adverse drug reaction report in the United Kingdom associated with paraphenylenediamine. This report concerned a multi-constituent product for which the other ingredient is 'Henna'. The reaction reported was 'skin reaction'.

Health Services: Older People

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve care for elderly patients in the NHS. [78241]

Paul Burstow: The Department commissioned the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to undertake the dignity and nutrition inspection (DANI) programme and its final national report was published last month.

There are a number of steps the Department is taking to improve care for elderly patients in the national health service including:

> There are a number of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence quality standards commissioned by the Department that are either in place or are being developed for a range of conditions and pathways affecting older people including incontinence, nutrition support in adults, patient experience in adult NHS services, delirium, dementia, osteoarthritis and falls in a care setting.
>
> One of the eight high impact actions developed for nursing relates to keeping people nourished and getting better, and aims to stop unintentional weight loss and dehydration in patients. This action is taken locally with initiatives such as red trays to identify patients who need help with eating and drinking and better management of charts.
>
> Since April 2010, it has been a requirement of a hospital's continuing registration with the CQC that service users are protected from the risks of dehydration and inadequate nutrition.
>
> Within the NHS Operating Framework and the NHS Outcomes Framework, there are a number of indicators to support better care for older people. These include dementia care, hospital acquired infections, emergency readmission rates, improving recovery from fragility fractures and helping older people to recover their independence after illness or injury.
>
> The Department is also funding national audits of falls and bone health, dementia, continence and hip fracture.

Local involvement networks in each local authority area are able to enter and view services to obtain the views and experiences of patients, service users and their families about their experiences of care and treatment at the time they are receiving it. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, local HealthWatch organisations will continue this enter and view activity. This information can be shared with the CQC's compliance inspectors, which will help to focus the inspection on specific concerns and thereby help the CQC to hold local services to account. Local HealthWatch will also be the champion for public and patients, service users and carers in health and social care services. HealthWatch England will be able to use information from local HealthWatch, and elsewhere, to form a national picture of services. Locally and nationally, HealthWatch will have a remit to make recommendations about how services could or should be improved.

The Department supports the "Partnership on dignity in care", which has been established by the NHS Confederation, Age UK and the Local Government Group. The Partnership aims to help drive improvements in the levels of care provided to older people in hospitals and care homes and has an independent commission which is currently taking evidence.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were recorded relating to inadequate care of elderly patients in NHS facilities in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010 and *(e)* 2011. [78308]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Accountability

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the accountability of management staff in NHS hospitals. [78242]

Anne Milton: "Enabling Excellence: Autonomy and Accountability for Healthcare Workers, Social Workers and Social Care Workers" (Command Paper 8008, February 2011) recognised the strong concerns about senior managers who have let people down appearing to avoid significant consequences for their actions and that a stronger assurance mechanism is needed.

While the precise nature of this mechanism will need to be discussed further, on 6 July 2011, the Department commissioned the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence to lead work to agree consistent standards of competence and behaviour for senior national health service leaders.

This Government are also committed to developing and supporting staff to deliver effective and efficient running of the NHS. The new NHS Leadership Academy, which was announced on 5 July 2011, is being developed to equip future leaders with the skills needed to create a more productive, personalised service and encourage collaboration across disciplines.

Hospitals: Food

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure elderly patients in NHS facilities receive adequate hydration and nourishment; [78243]

(2) what consideration his Department has given to the introduction of a universal red tray system in NHS hospitals. [78309]

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the report by the Care Quality Commission on the dignity and nutrition inspection programme of 13 October 2011, what steps his Department is taking to improve nutritional care in acute health care settings. [79294]

Anne Milton: All providers of regulated activities, including hospitals and care homes, are required by law to have policies in place that protect people from the risks of inadequate nutrition and dehydration. The Care Quality Commission assesses and monitors compliance with this requirement as part of the process of inspection and regulation.

It is for health and social care providers to develop local nutrition and hydration policies. There are a number of best practice resources and guidelines available to help providers do this. These include the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline to help the national health service identify patients who are malnourished or at risk of malnutrition, and the "Essence of Care" benchmarking system which includes "food and drink".

Providers are free to introduce the 'red tray' scheme, wherein patients at risk of poor nutrition are identified for special attention. This initiative came from an Essence of Care action plan, and has been adopted by many hospital wards across the country.

While national initiatives can stimulate thinking and offer guidance on best practice, local nurse leaders, including community team leaders, ward sisters and matrons, are key to setting and maintaining excellent standards of hydration and nutritional care in their clinical areas.

NHS: Medical Landing Flights

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS paid to each airport in the UK for costs associated with medical landing flights in each of the last three years; how many such landings took place at each airport; and if he will make a statement. [78325]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department. The hon. Member may wish to contact individual strategic health authorities to confirm whether any costs have been incurred.

NHS: Pensions

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total liability was of the NHS Pension Scheme in each year between 1997-98 and 2009-10. [78795]

Mr Simon Burns: The total liability of the NHS Pension Scheme in each year between 1997-98 and 2009-10 was as shown in the table.

The significant changes between some years in the liability levels shown are not due to significant changes in the size of prospective pension payments due from the NHS Pension Scheme. They have occurred due to changes in the discount rate used to convert these future payments into a one-off sum, when calculating the schemes liabilities.

NHS pensions scheme liability table

	£ billion
1998-99	67.20
1999-2000	72.20
2000-01	75.00
2001-02	86.80
2002-03	94.61
2003-04	104.26
2004-05	131.34
2005-06	165.40
2006-07	218.00
2007-08	212.50
2008-09	199.50
2009-10	287.60
2010-11	257.70

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual pension is of a retired member of the NHS pension scheme with 30 years of continuous service; and what estimate he has made of the average annual pension of such a person following the proposed linkage to the consumer prices index. [78796]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government Actuary's Department estimates that in 2008, the pension of an NHS pension scheme member with 30 years continuous service will retire with an average pension of approximately £15,000. This is based on currently contributing members rather than those in receipt of benefits. The average pension of a retired NSH Scheme member with 30 years continuous service is not currently available.

The proposed linkage to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) instead of the Retail Price Index (RPI) applies to the indexation of pensions in payment. This change does not affect pension benefits until a member draws their pension—at which stage the pension will be uprated in line with inflation over the year to the previous September.

The difference between RPI and CPI varies from year to year. In September 2010 CPI was 1.5% lower than RPI. Based on the example above, this would have made £225 difference per annum from April 2011 onwards.

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what comparative assessment he has made of the pension that *(a)* a member of the NHS pension scheme and *(b)* a private sector worker on a similar salary could expect to receive after 30 years of continuous employment. [78797]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has estimated based on 2008 data, that the average annual pension of an NHS pension scheme member with 30 years service would be approximately £15,000.

GAD estimates that a member in a private sector 'defined contribution' pension scheme would have to build up a pension pot of around £450,000 at age 65 to match this figure. It is estimated that this would require pension contributions of around 30% to 40% of pay, depending on what investment returns might be achieved.

This assessment would not apply to private sector workers with access to defined benefit pension schemes, where the pension entitlement upon retirement is calculated based on factors such as member salary or pensionable service.

NHS Reorganisation

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which cluster each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust has been grouped as part of his reorganisation of the NHS. [78147]

Mr Simon Burns: The 10 strategic health authorities (SHAS) have been grouped together into four SHA clusters; NHS North of England; NHS South of England; NHS Midlands and East of England and NHS London. The four SHA clusters collectively consist of 50 primary care trust (PCT) clusters, which consist of 151 PCTs across England.

A list that outlines the grouping of each SHA in the four SHA clusters respectively, the PCT clusters that fall into each SHA and the individual PCTs that fall into each PCT cluster has been placed in the Library.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS clusters have published transition plans for public health services that will be transferred to local authorities in April 2013. [78160]

Anne Milton: The four strategic health authority (SHA) cluster directors of public health have been charged with leading public health transitions at the local level. Primary care trusts and local government are responsible for planning the transition of public health responsibilities, and are in the process of developing local plans. Local transition plans are required to be submitted to SHA clusters by 31 March 2012. The Department is not aware of any plans being published to date.

Obesity: Health Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS in *(a)* Swindon and *(b)* Wiltshire was of obesity-related illness in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the total cost was of NHS healthcare in each such area in that period. [78390]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

A count of finished consultant episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of obesity for selected primary care trusts (PCTs) of responsibility: 2010-11

PCT	*Total episodes*
Swindon PCT	840
Wiltshire PCT	1,758

Notes:

1. Finished consultant episode (FCE): A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis:

The number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record. The ICD-code used to identify obesity is E66.

3. PCT/SHA data quality: In July 2006, the NHS reorganised strategic health authorities (SHA) and primary care trusts (PCT) in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards is not directly comparable with previous years. Data has been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided.

4. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The amount spent on healthcare services by Swindon PCT and Wiltshire PCT in 2010-11, which is the latest period for which figures are available, is given as follows:

£000

Organisation	*Primary healthcare*	*Secondary healthcare*	*Other healthcare*	*Total healthcare*
Swindon PCT	78,907	225,739	1,031	305,677
Wiltshire PCT	168,423	503,919	164	672,506

Notes:

1. The figures represent the total primary, secondary and other healthcare purchased and provided for the PCTs' resident populations. Expenditure on primary dental and general ophthalmic services is also included, but these are not on the basis of resident populations, since these costs are not directly attributed to PCTs on the basis of a patient's place of residence.

2. 'Other healthcare' as defined in the audited summarisation schedules relates to grants to other bodies for health related capital projects under joint working arrangements.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules of Swindon PCT and Wiltshire PCT.

Pancreatic Cancer

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of lives that could be saved by the early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer; and if he will make a statement; [78677]

(2) what recent assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of survival rates from pancreatic cancer in *(a)* the UK, (b) the US, (c) Canada, *(d)* Australia and *(e)* each other EU member state; and if he will make a statement; [78739]

(3) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Pancreatic Cancer; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [78740]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January 2011, sets out our ambition to bring England's cancer survival rates in line with the European average by 2014-15. Research has shown that to match the European average we need to save 5,000 additional lives per year.

This research also shows that if England's survival rates were as good as the best in Europe we would save 10,000 additional lives per year. This figure has also been broken down by tumour site and we estimate that we would save 75 additional lives each year if we matched the best European survival rate for pancreatic cancer.

We do not know what proportion of this figure of 75 lives could be saved through earlier diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, but we believe achieving earlier diagnosis of cancer is key to improving survival rates for many cancers. We will not be able to deliver on our ambition to deliver improved survival rates by focusing solely on the more common cancers and the strategy sets out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer-focused charities to assess what more can be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care for earlier diagnosis. The other key factor likely to influence survival rates for pancreatic cancer is ensuring that all patients have access to the appropriate treatment.

Departmental officials have already met with a number of these charities, including a pancreatic cancer charity, with the aim of identifying some of the barriers to early diagnosis. Pancreatic Cancer UK has recently requested to meet me to discuss its Campaign for Hope and related issues. My office is currently setting that meeting up and I understand that the charity will also be inviting some parliamentary colleagues. As I understand, there is no All Party Parliamentary Group for Pancreatic Cancer.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to assist Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to eliminate its financial deficit in the current financial year; and if he will make a statement. [79047]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the national health service locally. However, we are advised that NHS Peterborough is working closely with Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to help support it to address its financial issues while providing quality, safe services for all the people of Peterborough.

The hon. Member may wish to contact the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust directly.

Prescription Drugs

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in introducing the innovation pass in the NHS. [78786]

Mr Simon Burns: The Innovation Pass was an initiative announced in the previous Government's Office for Life Sciences (OLS) blueprint with funding of up to £25 million for 2010-11. The Innovation Pass was suspended in July 2010 and we have no plans to reinstate the Pass at this time. The Cancer Drugs Fund, which is providing £200 million funding per year over the period 2011-12 to 2013-14, demonstrates our commitment to improving patient access to innovative medicines.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase GPs' awareness of the information contained in the NHS Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme. [78205]

Paul Burstow: 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' (January 2011) set out that the UK National Screening Committee has asked the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group (PCAG) to explore options for making the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP) information more accessible to men. This is to ensure that men are well informed about the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer and empowered to request a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test if they want one.

To raise awareness of the information among general practitioners (GPs), PCAG is in correspondence with the Royal College of General Practitioners about the information on prostate cancer included in the formal education of GPs. PCAG is also developing key messages that every GP should know about prostate cancer which will be disseminated widely once finalised, including via Prostate Action's GP network. In addition, the PCRMP Scientific Reference Group are supporting further work on measuring the levels of PSA testing, which is building in questions around GP knowledge and education about the programme. We are also aware of work being developed by The Prostate Cancer Charity's Testing Choices campaign.

Rare Diseases

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the chief medical officer will next report on progress made in the field of rare diseases. [78385]

Mr Simon Burns: The chief medical officer (CMO) is not expected to produce an update on progress in the field of rare diseases. Action is being taken forward at official level, in conjunction with the devolved Administrations, to produce a United Kingdom plan on rare disease in response to EC Recommendation 2009/C 151/029. The UK plan on rare disease will include a number of measures that should help to address the issues highlighted in the CMO's annual report 2009.

Skin Cancer

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of malignant melanoma. [79036]

Anne Milton: In 2011-12, the Department has been funding SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention campaign, to provide information and advice to the public. This involves a number of activities focusing on sun safety and appropriate sunbed use.

The Department has also published implementation guidance for local authorities on the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 and information for Sunbed Businesses. The purpose of the Act is to prevent those under 18 years from being allowed to use sunbeds in commercial premises.

Skin Cancer: Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence rate for malignant melanoma was in Cornwall in each year since 2005. [79035]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

Skin Cancer: Drugs

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence about its draft guidance on Ipilimumab (Yervoy) for the treatment of previously treated unresectable stage III or IV malignant melanoma; and what representations he has received from patient groups on the draft guidance. [79037]

Mr Simon Burns: We have had no such discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

From 14 October to 3 November 2011, we have received 28 representations from hon. Members (including the hon. Member's question) and members of the public regarding NICE's draft guidance, including a joint representation from two patient groups.

Southern Cross Healthcare

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the financial stability of operators running former Southern Cross care homes. [78833]

Paul Burstow: It is for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to register providers of adult social care services, including care homes.

The registration process for care providers with the CQC requires that they declare their organisation takes all reasonable steps to remain financially viable. Where the CQC has concerns regarding a declaration, it will ask further questions to determine whether the provider is compliant with Regulation 13 of the CQC (Registration) Regulations 2009, which requires providers to ensure the "financial viability" of their enterprise, before deciding whether to register them.

Once registered, there is a statutory obligation, under Regulation 15 of the CQC (Registration) Regulations 2009, that providers notify the CQC of changes which will affect their registration. This includes the appointment by a provider of a receiver, liquidator or provisional liquidator.

The Government are, however, keen to learn lessons from Southern Cross; and are currently looking at whether further oversight of the social care market is required in the future. To inform this work, the Department recently published a discussion paper outlining some key questions on this issue. This can be found on the Caring for our Future website at:

http://caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk/

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many former Southern Cross care homes have not yet been transferred to new operators. [78834]

Paul Burstow: Of the 591 homes originally operated by Southern Cross, 20 care homes in England remain to transfer to new operators. We expect these to be transferred on 14 November 2011.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the new operator is of each former Southern Cross care home. [78727]

Paul Burstow: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he has had with new operators of former Southern Cross care homes; and whether the meetings included a discussion on the operator's financial stability. [78729]

Paul Burstow: It is for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to register providers of adult social care services, including care homes. The registration process for care providers with the CQC requires that they declare their organisation takes all reasonable steps to remain financially viable. Where the CQC has concerns regarding a declaration, it will ask further questions to determine whether the provider is compliant with Regulation 13 of the CQC (Registration) Regulations 2009, which requires providers to ensure the "financial viability" of their enterprise, before deciding whether to register them.

The Department's Ministers have not met with new operators of former Southern Cross care homes to discuss this matter. Departmental officials will meet with providers to do so as the need arises.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library all correspondence that has taken place between the Minister of State for Social Care and Southern Cross Healthcare Group since May 2010. [78798]

Paul Burstow: The chief executive officer (CEO), Jamie Buchan, of Southern Cross Healthcare first wrote to me on 3 August to introduce himself and to request a meeting to discuss the United Kingdom care sector as a whole and Southern Cross's role within it. This letter did not warn that Southern Cross faced immediate financial difficulties; rather, the letter explained the pressure that a difficult settlement from the forthcoming comprehensive spending review (CSR) would place on Southern Cross's business model, and it explained the improvements that the company's board planned to make to its services. The same letter was received separately from the CEO's personal assistant on 30 July, and a departmental official responded, declining the request for a meeting, on 19 August.

The CEO wrote again to me on 24 September 2010, referring to the possible implications of the CSR settlement for the care home sector in general. The letter did not raise concerns over the future viability of the company's business model. I responded to this letter on 14 October.

The Government recognises the pressures on the social care system in this challenging financial climate. That is why on 20 October 2010 the spending review announced the allocation of an additional £7.2 billion to support the delivery of social care in the four years to 2014-15, in addition to ensuring that existing Department of Health grants for social care rise in line with inflation to £1.4 billion by 2014-15.

The CEO wrote to David Behan, Director General for Social Care at the Department of Health, on 14 October. This letter was the first occasion on which Jamie Buchan alerted the Department to the possibility of the imminent financial difficulties. David Behan met with Jamie Buchan on 8 November and since that point, negotiations have continued between Southern Cross and senior departmental officials. Ministers have liaised closely with officials in order to be kept fully informed of the situation and they have provided clear steers at every stage of negotiations.

On 15 March 2011, the CEO wrote to update Ministers on the company's position, further to the announcement to the stock exchange of 14 March and to set out the company's commitment to improve the quality of services. This letter was also sent to the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), who replied on behalf of the Department on 23 March 2011.

Copies of the above correspondence have been placed in the Library.

Tuberculosis

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to implementing the consolidated action plan to prevent and combat multi-drug-resistant and extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis in the World Health Organisation European Region; and what representations his Department has made to the European Commission to ensure sufficient financial resources are available to facilitate the Action Plan's implementation. [78843]

Anne Milton: The United Kingdom contributed to the development of the action plan to prevent and combat multi-drug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis (TB) in the World Health Organisation European Region, including the formulation of a monitoring framework.

The Health Protection Agency, through its National Mycobacterium Reference Laboratory, is leading the European network of national reference laboratories assuring the quality of diagnosis for drug-resistant TB and supporting national expertise for the public health and clinical management of MDR and XDR TB. It is also with partners within the European Union developing a clinical/diagnostic trial network.

There are already measures in place in this country to tackle MDR and XDR TB, which are relatively uncommon. These measures are in line with the action plan.

We have not made any representations to the European Commission about resourcing of implementation of the action plan's recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Accountancy: EU Law

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what bilateral meetings his Department had with development agencies of other EU member states in relation to proposed changes to the European accountancy directives and transparency directive. [78814]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development, Treasury and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are considering the European Commission's detailed proposals for changes to the transparency directive and accounting directive to introduce mandatory reporting requirements for companies in the extractive industries and will be discussing them with relevant partners and other stakeholders in due course.

The Government have made it clear that the UK supports EU requirements for extractives companies to ensure that they disclose the payments they make to Governments, matching the standards recently set by the Dodd Frank Act in the US.

Afghanistan: Females

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides financial support to any women's organisations in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [78548]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government place women at the heart of our development agenda. The Department for International Development (DFID) takes careful account of the impact on women and girls in the design and implementation of all its projects and programmes

DFID's global Civil Society Challenge Fund is supporting Womankind and the International Planned Parenthood Foundation to address the human rights and practical needs of women and girls in Afghanistan and elsewhere. DFID is also supporting Zardozi', a local Afghan partner, which helps women tailors and cloth merchants sell their products to markets, working through female agents. This programme has worked with more than 2,000 Afghan women to date and its reach is to be extended.

During my recent visit to Afghanistan I launched a major new civil society programme that will provide grants to Afghan organisations to help them hold their government to account. The programme will have a strong focus on women's rights and it is hoped that many women's organisations will directly benefit from this programme.

Burma: Children

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provides for humanitarian and psychological support for former child soldiers from Burma. [78825]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK provides significant core funding to UNICEF who deliver programmes of rehabilitation, reintegration, family-tracing and other support to former child soldiers in Burma. Further details of DFID's work in Burma can be found in the DFID Burma Operational Plan, available on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Burma: Overseas Aid

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department evaluates the ability of recipient organisations in Burma to meet project objectives and to account properly for aid funds. [78322]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In Burma as in all other countries, DFID officials rigorously review the evidence provided by organisations when they bid for funds. Proposals are assessed against criteria such as:

the credibility of the link between the planned activities and the results to be achieved;

the strength of results monitoring plans;

experience the organisation has of delivering similar projects successfully; and

the cost-effectiveness of the proposed work.

During implementation DFID projects are routinely scrutinised to assess whether objectives are on track. They are also evaluated after implementation to assess whether objectives have been met, and to ensure lesson learning. All DFID projects need to be accessible to credible audit teams to certify that aid funds are being properly accounted for.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reason his Department did not approve a grant application from the Kachin Women's Association, Thailand, for funding for support for people internally displaced by conflict in Kachin state, Burma. [78826]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development officials reviewed the grant application from the Kachin Women's Association—Thailand (KWAT) alongside other organisations offering programmes to support people internally displaced by conflict in Kachin state, Burma. After careful consideration officials decided that significant work would have been needed to strengthen the design of KWAT's proposal for us to be able to fund it. Officials therefore decided the most effective way to reach the largest number of IDPs quickly would be to increase our existing support to those organisations that had ongoing programmes which could be scaled-up, rather than designing and approving new programmes as would have been necessary in order to support KWAT.

CDC

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when CDC plans to start publishing information on the projects it supports. [78827]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: CDC is already publishing full lists of the fund managers it works with, the funds it invests in and the businesses in which its capital is at work.

CDC also publishes each year its annual report and accounts and a separate annual review which examines the development impact of CDC's work.

All of these documents are available to the public on CDC's website:

www.cdcgroup.com

CDC: Disclosure of Information

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the contribution of the publication of forward strategies to the transparency of CDC. [78828]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: CDC has taken on board the criticisms made about its lack of transparency. Its new Disclosure Policy puts CDC among the leaders in the Development Finance Institution sector for publication of and accessibility to substantially more amounts of information about where the money goes, who actually manages it and what results are achieved. A notable example of this new approach is the publication of CDC's high-level Business Plan at the end of May this year.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps have been taken to improve the transparency of CDC. [78829]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: CDC has reviewed its transparency and disclosure policy and now publishes significantly more operational and corporate information than in the past.

The new disclosure policy, information about the fund managers CDC works with, the funds CDC invests in and the businesses receiving CDC investment, together with country and sector information is available on CDC's website:

www.cdcgroup.com

along with corporate information about CDC.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and (c) none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78885]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The number of requests under the Freedom of Information Act received by DFID on a monthly basis from May 2010 to June 2011 can be found in the following table (statistics for the third quarter of 2011 are not yet available). Information on the individual outcomes of these requests on a monthly basis could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. Full statistics reporting the information sought on a quarterly and annual basis are reported by DFID to the Ministry of Justice and are published by that Department. There is no provision under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for holding responses.

	Number of requests received
2010	
May	38
June	35
July	39
August	37
September	42
October	29
November	37
December	19
2011	
January	38
February	32

	Number of requests received
March	41
April	32
May	37
June	45

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78886]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The information sought is published by the Ministry of Justice on an annual basis. The total figures published in respect of requests made to DFID from January 2010 until June 2011 are as follows (figures are not yet available for the third quarter of 2011):

(a) Commercially sensitive—34

(b) Information not held—35

(c) Cost limit—93

(d) Vexatious requests—9

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78887]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Departmental officials determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

The exemption under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person that the exemption applies. In relation to information held by Government, the qualified person must be a Minister. In DFID I am the qualified person.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [78015]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: No, I do not receive any external funding for my ministerial office or my advisers.

Public Sector Employee Bids

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77603]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any applications from DFID employees to run services that this Department is responsible for.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 580W, on departmental meetings, when the list will be updated to cover the period since March 2010. [79009]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all Ministers external meetings are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/

and have been published up to and including March 2011. Details of external meetings from April 2011 will be published shortly. All Departments publish the returns at the same time.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77892]

Mr Duncan: The booklet HMG Personnel Security Controls describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks. It is available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

as is the quarterly publication of the list of special advisers which is also available in the Library of the House.

There are no other ministerial-appointed policy advisers in the Department for International Development (DFID).

Developing Countries: Waste Disposal

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what agreements are in place between the UK and other governments to co-operate to end the export of electronic waste to developing countries. [76121]

Mr Duncan: Under the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive, the UK is working with EU member states to prevent the illegal export of electronic waste to developing countries. Under the WEEE directive, it is illegal to export hazardous e-waste from the UK for disposal in developing countries. The UK has a national intelligence team and a national environmental crime team. As part of their remit, these teams are required to prevent the illegal export of e-waste. They use an intelligence-led approach to target the most prolific, serious and organised illegal waste exporters. This has led to a 98% success rate of finding electrical waste when stopping targeted shipping containers.

East Africa: Droughts

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the funding required to alleviate the famine in the Horn of Africa. [78501]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The current declaration of famine by the United Nations is limited to specific areas of Southern Somalia. The 2011 United Nations (UN) Consolidated Appeal for Somalia outlines humanitarian funding requirements of US$983 million and is nearly 80% funded. Other organisations who issue their own appeals (notably the Red Cross movement) have raised most of what they have asked for. Instability and lack of humanitarian access are now more significant constraints to humanitarian delivery in Somalia than a lack of funding.

Other countries in the Horn of Africa which are affected by drought, but not famine, include Kenya, with a UN humanitarian appeal (including for refugee support) of $741 million (68% funded); Ethiopia, with a UN appeal for the drought of $398 million (73% funded) and for refugees of $246 million (51% funded); and Djibouti with a UN appeal of $33 million (53% funded).

Regularly updated information on the funding situation for the Horn of Africa (and other emergencies) can be seen on the UN's Financial Tracking Service website:

http://fts.unocha.org/

East Africa: Education

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help improve educational opportunities in East Africa. [78478]

Mr Duncan: Our support for education in east Africa is designed to improve access with a particular focus on improving opportunities for girls to complete primary school and go on to secondary education.

In Kenya, we plan to increase support for state schools in the arid north eastern parts of the country where enrolment is low, and to support the development of low cost private schools in more densely populated urban communities. We shall be increasing opportunities for girls to complete primary and go on to secondary school in a number of different ways, such as improving the school environment and providing better incentives for girls to stay on in school through scholarships and cash transfers for their families. By 2014-15 we shall be supporting at least 300,000 students at primary level (of whom 160,000 will be girls) and at least 600 secondary school students, two thirds of whom will be girls.

In Tanzania, we shall have a similar emphasis on increasing girls' enrolment at primary level and transition to secondary education through enhancing the quality of education, improving water and sanitation in schools and ensuring better literacy and numeracy. We shall be supporting a pilot programme to improve girls' safety and tackle gender-based violence in school. By 2014-15 we plan to support at least 300,000 students at primary level and 85,000 students at secondary level (of whom 50% will be girls).

In Uganda, we shall be increasing opportunities in northern Uganda for 13,000 children with disabilities and through vocational training for 160,000 young people. Two programmes through the Girls' Education Movement aim to enable girls who drop out of primary school to resume their studies and provide 1,000 bursaries for girls to attend secondary school.

Famine: International Co-operation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the adoption by the UN of the Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [78248]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I am fully supportive of the Charter to End Extreme Hunger's aim to reduce the likelihood of crises such as that currently taking hold in the horn of Africa taking place in the future. In at-risk areas such as this, the Government have committed in their Humanitarian Policy to support strengthened warning systems and contingency plans and to build resilience to disasters. Already, in Ethiopia we are helping 7.8 million people to break their need for emergency food programmes by providing support before food insecurity reaches famine levels.

I have recently written to the non-governmental organisations behind the charter to assure them of my support for their aims and express appreciation for their vital work. I know that Valerie Amos, the UN's emergency relief co-ordinator, has been similarly positive about the charter.

Horn of Africa: Famine

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to encourage other *(a)* nations and *(b)* international organisations to assist in meeting any funding shortfall in famine relief for East Africa. [78816]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK has been at the forefront of the world's response to the crisis in the Horn of Africa. While UK lobbying has helped to attract significant financial support to humanitarian appeals, there remains a shortfall of approximately US$609 million.

Over the summer I have spoken with a number of my international counterparts about the crisis in the Horn; a central message I have pushed is the need for generous and sustained support to relief and recovery efforts. Specifically I have held discussions with the United Nation's Emergency Relief Coordinator, Baroness Amos, and with Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme. In addition I have also spoken with Dr Rajiv Shah from the United States Agency for International Development; Ben Knapen, the Netherlands' Development Minster; Dirk Niebel, Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden; Henri de Raincourt, France's Development Minister; and Franco Frattini, Italy's Foreign Minister.

During July I pressed development ministers and officials including Denmark's State Secretary for development policy, Ib Petersen; European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs; Deputy Director General and Minister of Foreign Affairs for France, George Serre; Minister of the Environment and International Development of Norway, Erik Solheim;

Japanese President, Sadako Ogata; President of Institute for Liberty and Democracy, Hernando de Soto; Deputy Administrator of USAID, Donald Steinberg; Secretary General of UNCTAD, Supachai Panitchpakdi; Chair of Development Assistance Committee France, Brian Atwood; Director-General of Ausaid Australia, Peter Baxter; President of CIDA Canada, Margaret Briggs; Director General of International Cooperation, the Netherlands, Yoka Brandt; Vice Minister for Development Policy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Korea, Tae-Yul Cho; Director General Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland, Martin Dahinden; Associate Administrator UNDP, Rebeca Grynspan; Secretary General OECD, Angel Gurria; State Secretary for International Development Cooperation Sweden, Anna Helquist; Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway, Hege Hertzberg; Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Eco-Cooperation Development Germany, Gudrun Kopp; Executive Director UNICEF, Anthony Lake; Managing Director of Public Policy, Bill Gates Foundation, Geoff Lamb; Managing Director of World Bank, Mahmoud Mohieldin; Kenyan Prime Minister, Raila Odinga, and Foreign Minister, George Saitoti; Somali Government; senior officials from the United Nations (UN) including Baroness Amos of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme; Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; and Tony Lake of the UN Children's Fund.

The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), have also discussed the crisis affecting the Horn of Africa with a number of their counterparts.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on helping to meet any funding shortfalls experienced by non-governmental organisations operating in East Africa. [78817]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is currently the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor to the Horn of Africa drought crisis, behind the United States, having committed £128.44 million since 1 July. Much of this funding has been provided to NGOs such as Save the Children UK, Oxfam GB, Concern, Care International UK and Action Against Hunger UK.

The UK is committed to encouraging other countries to support relief operations and lobbying others remains a key component of the UK's response. On this issue, over the summer, I have spoken many times to development ministers from other countries such as the United Sates of America, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Canada, Australia and Japan; as have the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague). The UK will maintain the pressure on other donors to support life-saving humanitarian activities and resilience building activities carried out by NGOs and others in the Horn of Africa.

International Assistance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of progress towards achieving the millennium development goals *(a)* to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, *(b)* to achieve universal primary education by 2015, *(c)* to promote gender equality and empower women and *(d)* to reduce child mortality. [79006]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: DFID's Annual Report includes information on global progress towards the millennium development goals, as well as progress in DFID's priority countries. Information on global progress can be found within chapter 2, with progress in DFID's priority countries included within chapter 3.

A link to DFID's Annual Report for 2010-11 is included as follows:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/Annual-report/

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the UK's contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. [79007]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: DFID's Annual Report includes information on global progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, as well as progress in DFID's priority countries. Information on global progress can be found within Chapter 2, with progress in DFID's priority countries included within chapter 3.

A link to DFID's Annual Report for 2010-11 is included as follows:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/Annual-report/

Overseas Aid

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on steps to increase public awareness and understanding of UK aid spending. [78808]

Mr Duncan: Between January and June 2011 the Department for International Development conducted a comprehensive external review into the use of aid funds in the UK to promote awareness of global poverty. This review, completed by the Central Office for Information, consulted a wide array of stakeholders. The report, with a list of the stakeholders consulted, is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/development-awareness-review

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the joint statement made by UK development non-governmental organisations in advance of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness entitled Aid effectiveness in contexts of poor governance, conflict and fragility. [79286]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK broadly agrees with the priorities in the joint statement made by UK development non-governmental organisations in advance of the Fourth

High Level Forum (HLF4). The Government's priorities for HLF4 are improving aid effectiveness in fragile and conflict affected states improving results and the transparency of development assistance.

The UK plans to support, with others, a new deal for fragile and conflict affected states at HLF4. The New Deal, which has been led by fragile states themselves, working in partnership with donors, and a large group of civil society organisations including many UK NGOs, comprises a set of new goals and commitments to deliver legitimate, inclusive politics and build better security, justice and economic foundations.

Overseas Aid: Developing Countries

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* funding and *(b)* programmes for climate change adaptation and mitigation prioritise the needs of (i) children and (ii) other vulnerable people in developing countries. [78820]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government have launched the International Climate Fund (ICF) to help reduce poverty and tackle climate change in developing countries. Our adaptation funding will be focused on the poorest countries in the sectors that are most important to poor people's livelihoods and vulnerable to climate change. For example, the ICF will reduce the vulnerability of poor people to climate-related shocks by funding better early warning systems, building cyclone shelters, and setting up insurance schemes to protect farmers and families from losses.

The UK Government are also developing programmes to support clean energy solutions for poor people who are not currently connected to the national electricity grid, reducing their vulnerability to external fuel prices and the need to collect traditional sources of fuel. This provides more time for economic activities and has a significant impact on maternal and child health. We are continually analysing and tracking the impact and application of climate financing to ensure that the voices of poor and vulnerable people, and their representatives are heard, and taken into account, in the selection and design of programmes.

Global Population

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likelihood of the Government meeting its commitment to achieving the *(a)* trends in global population and *(b)* Millennium Development Goals by 2015. [78819]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government have made no commitment to meeting the global trends in population. We are however committed to giving women control over their lives and their bodies. We know that when women are given the choice they choose to have smaller families; they choose to have more for their children not more children.

The UK will enable at least 10 million more women to use modern methods of family planning by 2015, so that women can decide for themselves whether, when and how many children to have. Britain will also directly contribute to preventing more than five million unintended pregnancies. Progress against these commitments will be made publically available through DFID's annual report.

DFID's annual report includes information on global progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, as well as progress in DFID's priority countries. Information on global progress can be found within chapter 2, with progress in DFID's priority countries included within chapter 3.

DFID's annual report for 2010-11 can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/Annual-report/

Somalia: Cholera

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help restrict the spread of cholera in Somalia. [78824]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In south-central Somalia, DFID is supporting the efforts of the United Nations Childrens Fund, OXFAM and Action Against Hunger to provide clean water to 500,000 people and construct over 2,000 latrines. DFID and other donors are also supporting partner programmes to upgrade water and sanitation facilities in health centres, promote good hygiene and sanitation practice to prevent diarrhoea and cholera, and do clean up campaigns in high risk areas. With donor support, UNICEF has also engaged world experts from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh to train staff and treat cholera cases in 17 hospitals.

In Somaliland, diarrhoeal disease prevention kits, funded by DFID, are provided through social franchising networks in 79 private pharmacies. Over 1.2 million water tablets have been purchased and messages on prevention have been given to over 4,000 women over the last year.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that aid is reaching those most in need in *(a)* Somalia and *(b)* regions of Southern Somalia under the effective control of al-Shabaab. [78818]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since July, the UK Government have allocated £57 million to support humanitarian aid in Somalia, the vast majority of it in Southern Somalia where people are most in need. To date UK aid has provided 247,000 people with food assistance, treated some 7,500 severely malnourished children, vaccinated 500,000 children against measles and supplied 400,000 doses of drugs to treat malaria. I have also pressed other countries to pay their share. The 2011 UN Consolidated Appeal for Somalia is nearly 80% funded—the best funded appeal globally, Nonetheless, huge needs remain unmet.

The Department for International Development (DFID) humanitarian support is guided by core humanitarian principles, including impartiality. Aid is therefore prioritised to reach those in greatest need. In Somalia most of the people suffering from famine are in areas under the control of Al Shabaab. DFID works with trusted and experienced United Nations, Red Cross and international non-governmental humanitarian organisations who have managed to maintain some access to vulnerable people in Al Shabaab-held areas. DFID partners put in place robust systems to minimise the risks, and ensure aid reaches those most in need.

We are discussing with other actors, including the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, whether they can encourage Al Shabaab to ease access constraints for all humanitarian actors.

Turkey: Earthquakes

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to Turkish authorities following the recent earthquake; and whether his Department is providing *(a)* food, *(b)* medicines, *(c)* blankets and tents and *(d)* heaters; and if he will make a statement. [78235]

Mr Duncan: In response to a specific request from the Turkish Government, the UK Government have provided 1,144 protective winter tents to house 5,500 people who are without shelter. The Turkish Government have not requested food, medicines, blankets, heaters or additional relief commodities. The UK Government will continue to monitor the situation in the affected region.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 8 November 2011

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78657]

Mr Lidington: A full list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published quarterly on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality/

Records of meetings by officials are not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78866]

Mr Lidington: The information requested is *(a)* no; *(b)* yes; *(c)* no, Our records show that three meetings took place at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Information on the number of meetings which may have taken place elsewhere, including overseas, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan: Females

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that women and women's organisations in Afghanistan are included in *(a)* discussions at the Bonn conference in December on the future of Afghanistan and *(b)* all ongoing discussions on the future of Afghanistan. [78549]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 892W and 893W.

Algeria: Christianity

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Algeria on the prohibition of any Christian activity from taking place outside of a state-recognised church building. [79024]

Alistair Burt: We are aware that the Algerian authorities have closed some places of worship which had not been registered, including those of Christian groups, since new regulations governing religion in Algeria came into effect in May 2007. I discussed the situation with a delegation of Algerian Christians when I met them on 26 October. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), discussed the importance of reform with the Algerian authorities during his recent visit, although he did not raise religious freedoms specifically.

The UK also raises the issue of human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, with the Government of Algeria through a variety of mechanisms including the EU-Algeria Association Agreement. Following a recent visit by Mr Stefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood policy, the EU and Algerian Government have increased dialogue on these issues, by establishing a sub-committee on political dialogue, security and human rights. Freedom of religion, including for Christian groups, was discussed at the first meeting which was held last month.

British Overseas Territories

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Government intends to publish its new strategy for the British Overseas Territories. [79397]

Mr Bellingham: The British Government plans to publish a White Paper on the Overseas Territories next year. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), on 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 48WS, setting out the main principles of the Government's strategy.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78924]

Mr Lidington: The figures for the number of Freedom of Information requests received each month since May 2010 by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are as follows:

	Number
2010	
May	65
June	102

	Number
July	100
August	97
September	107
October	116
November	118
December	78
2011	
January	99
February	138
March	131
April	80
May	137
June	126

Three-monthly figures for whether information was disclosed in full, in part or not at all, and the timeliness of replies to requests are available on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times his Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78063]

Mr Lidington: Central records of this information are not maintained, and an accurate answer to this question cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. Officials who are involved in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's litigation cases and related matters are in constant contact with counsel.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78078]

Mr Lidington: Advice from the Department's legal section is fully integrated into the decision-making process within the Department. No record is maintained of the number of times legal advice is provided to Ministers within that process, and the information requested could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78088]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s legal department has approximately 70 staff working as legal advisers, support and information staff and maritime policy officers.

Neither the FCO Services Trading Fund nor the Wilton Park Executive Agency have their own legal departments.

We do not hold data centrally on the individual roles performed by staff in our non-departmental public bodies and details could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77357]

Mr Lidington: Official items lost, stolen or damaged are all recorded as "losses". Information is only available for the period since August 2010 without incurring disproportionate cost. Information on the number of mobile telephones lost is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since August 2010, 28 computers, including laptops (12 of these were in the UK and the other 16 were at one of our 260 posts overseas) and 37 BlackBerrys (15 of these were in the UK and the other 22 were at one of our 260 posts overseas) have been lost, stolen or damaged.

All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) computers, including laptops, and BlackBerrys are encrypted and password protected; and all BlackBerrys that are registered as lost or stolen are blocked remotely, making it impossible for them to be used. The FCO implements security incident management procedures to ensure that the impacts of incidents are risk managed and investigations are undertaken to seek, where possible, to retrieve lost/stolen assets.

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* Ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78110]

Mr Lidington: The number of statutory instruments in the relevant years are as follows:

1990: 37
1995: 26
1999: 28
2000: 36
2001: 37
2002: 26
2003: 17
2004: 35
2005: 24
2006: 18
2007: 21
2008: 13
2009: 30
2010: 11
2011 (to date): 23.

It is not possible to list the number of ministerial orders made in these years without incurring disproportionate cost, but the ministerial orders will be statutory instruments and will accordingly fall within the number given above for statutory instruments. We believe there were no pieces of secondary legislation issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the relevant years which were not statutory instruments.

Parliamentary Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79567]

Mr Lidington: Ministerial clearance is always the final stage before a parliamentary question is answered.

European Union: Legislative Competence

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings Ministers in his Department have held as part of the Government's examination of the balance of the EU's existing competences since May 2010. [78766]

Mr Hague: I have held regular internal discussions with officials and my ministerial colleagues on a range of issues, including the balance of the EU's existing competences.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the student campaign in Iran entitled "Can you solve this?" regarding the denial of education to members of the Baha'i faith. [79101]

Alistair Burt: I met with representatives from the Baha'i community in the UK to discuss this campaign and the wider issues of repression against the Baha'i minority in Iran on 15 September. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has so far received, and replied to, over 2000 emails expressing concern for the closure of the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education. The closure of the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education and arrest of members of its staff form part of a wider pattern of harassment of Baha'is in Iran, including the imprisonment of Baha'i leaders. We regularly raise these issues with the Iranian authorities, including when I met the Iranian chargé d'affaires in August this year. We will continue to press the Iranian Government to accord all their people the right to freedom of religion. With our EU partners, the UK has taken co-ordinated action to address Iran's human rights record, imposing travel bans and asset freezes on over 60 Iranians responsible for human rights violations, including Government Ministers and members of the judiciary.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent information he has received on denial of education in Iran to individuals and groups other than members of the Baha'i faith. [79102]

Alistair Burt: Access to higher education in Iran is noteworthy with roughly one in 20 Iranians in full-time university study, and over 60% of university attendants are female. This is to be commended, and every effort should be made by Iran to afford all citizens access to education without discrimination. Reports of discrimination, including on the basis of religion and ethnicity, are a serious concern which we have raised with the Iranian authorities.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent information he has received of members of the Baha'i faith in Iran being prevented from studying; and if he will make a statement. [79103]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 305W.

Ministerial Meetings

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on meetings between the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) when Secretary of State for Defence, and representatives of the Government of *(a)* Israel, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Afghanistan, *(d)* India, *(e)* the US, *(f)* Sri Lanka and *(g)* Egypt. [79015]

Alistair Burt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* ministerial colleagues in his Department held with backbench hon. Members who are members of the Conservative party between Monday 17 October and Tuesday 25 October 2011. [78279]

Mr Hague: It has been the custom of successive Governments that Ministers meet hon. and right hon. Friends in the normal course of business.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 534W, on prisoners, whether he has recently *(a)* raised concerns with and *(b)* issued statements to the Government of Israel in relation to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. [79217]

Alistair Burt: I discussed this matter during my visit in June with the Minister of Justice, indicating the UK's concerns about both the detention and the treatment of Palestinian prisoners, including children. The British ambassador to Tel Aviv most recently raised the issue on 26 October during his visit to the Israel Prison Service complex, at the invitation of the Public Security Minister, where there are around 4,500 security detainees. He raised concerns over visitation rights and the treatment of minors, particularly cuffing and shackling. In his discussions with the Public Security Minister, the ambassador stressed the importance the UK placed on Israel fulfilling its obligations under international law.

The Government of Israel has reaffirmed to us its commitment to treating prisoners in line with international human rights standards. The UK will continue to monitor the situation with regard to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and encourage the Government of Israel to meet its stated commitments.

Office of UK Permanent Representative to EU: Manpower

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals were working *(a)* in UKREP in each of the last 20 years and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [78726]

Mr Bellingham *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* There are currently approximately 130 Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff working in UKREP Brussels. This figure includes UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

The number of staff has not changed significantly in the last three years.

Previous figures were compiled on a different basis and could be reconciled with the most recent figures only at disproportionate cost.

Sri Lanka

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions the British ambassador to Sri Lanka or his senior staff have met hon. Members in Sri Lanka in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [78211]

Alistair Burt: Hon. Members visit our global network of posts frequently and we do not hold a central record of meetings. Our high commission in Sri Lanka confirms the following meetings:

October 2010

A delegation from the UK Commonwealth Parliamentary Association that included the hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald (Mrs Grant); the hon. Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond); the hon. Member for Southend West (Mr Amess); the right hon. Member for Torfaen (Paul Murphy); and the hon. Member for East Lothian (Fiona O'Donnell).

February 2011

The hon. Member for Cities of London and Westminster (Mark Field);

The hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell);

The hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann).

July 2011

The right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox).

October 2011

The hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard).

I also visited Sri Lanka on an official visit in February 2011.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it remains his policy that the implementation of the proposals in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will not result in strategic shrinkage. [79005]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Yes.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the views of the general public in Yemen on the proposed Gulf Co-operation Council agreement on a political transition. [79378]

Alistair Burt: As in many parts of the Middle East and North Africa, Yemenis have been energised by popular protests starting in Tunisia which have pressed for democratic change. From ~~late~~ January 2011 we have witnessed the growth of widespread protest movements across Yemen. On the anti-Government side these have been largely made up of students, some politically affiliated, and civil society, and have received the support of the official opposition grouping JMP, and elements of the armed forces. At the same time we have also seen large pro-Government demonstrations in support of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The anti-Government protest movement across Yemen has made plain its principal demand, that President Saleh step down. The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) initiative meets this demand in its outline of a staged plan for a formal transfer of power leading to the formation of a National Unity Government and early presidential elections. The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) supports the aims of the initiative and has already signed the GCC initiative, as have representatives of the ruling party (GPC). The protest movement, representative of large numbers of Yemen's students and civil society, is diverse and lacks a single voice. In meetings with its members British embassy officials have seen a range of views, some aligned with the JMP and its support of the GCC initiative, others not. A major theme is concern with accountability and justice for those suspected of human rights abuses and corruption.

The highly volatile security situation in Sana'a, the capital, and across Yemen constrains the ability of our embassy staff to travel widely in the country and interact freely with as many Yemenis as we would like. But our ambassador reports a continued desire for change among many Yemenis.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the response of the general public in Yemen to UN Security Council Resolution 2014. [79379]

Alistair Burt: In meetings with the leaders of the official opposition and judging from public statements by leaders of the protest movements there is widespread support for the UN in maintaining, through its adoption of Resolution 2014, pressure on president Saleh and his government. The Yemeni regime has also welcomed the resolution and undertaken to respond positively to it. Tawakkol Karman, Nobel prize winner and civil right activist, referred to it as a "good start". There is a sense among protestors that the UN can do more, but the resolution, with its clause on reviewing the situation after 30 days, sends a strong message to the Yemeni leadership and opposition of global concern about the deteriorating situation in Yemen and the urgent need for a political settlement. In particular it sends a clear message to President Saleh that he should sign the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative without delay.

The general public, specifically those involved in anti-government protests and on the receiving end of lethal force by government security forces, should be encouraged by the resolution's clear condemnation of human rights abuses by all sides and the call for those responsible to be held accountable. Protestors from all camps are vocal on the issues of justice and accountability.

The will for concerted international action to urge president Saleh to follow through with his promises to transfer power is strong and growing. We are making clear our concern over the economic, humanitarian and security situation in Yemen. All our efforts are focused on achieving a peaceful political settlement. But ultimately that choice rests in Yemeni hands.

WALES

Adam Werrity

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* officials of her Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Mr Jon Moulton and (vi) Mr Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78662]

Mr David Jones: No such meetings have taken place.

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in her Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78532]

Mr David Jones: Staff on full-time equivalent earnings of under £21,000 a year are eligible for a pay increase of at least £250. Six staff in the Wales Office were eligible for these payments in both financial years, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Eight staff on loan from the Welsh Government received progression payments to which they had a contractual entitlement in 2010-11. Two staff on loan from the Welsh Government (WG) received the progression payments in 2011-12. The average increase arising from progression payments for both years was around 4%. Nine staff on loan from the WG who were not eligible for a progression payment received a one-off pay uplift of £400 regardless of grade in 2010-11.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in her Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78535]

Mr David Jones: Ministry of Justice staff working at the Wales Office are entitled to non-consolidated performance related pay for outstanding performance and, under the reward and recognition scheme, for additional work performed. All payments are non-pensionable lump sums. The total number of officials receiving these since 2007 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of officials*
2007-08	14
2008-09	7
2009-10	9
2010-11	10
2011-12	8

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in her Department; and if she will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77920]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in her Department; [77921]

(3) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in her Department; and if she will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77922]

(4) what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in her Department. [77923]

Mrs Gillan: Information relating to security vetting is publicly available in the booklet entitled HMG Personnel Security Controls, which is available from the Cabinet Office website at

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

This booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks. It would not, however, be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within the Wales Office are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within the department has access to sensitive material and this could be used for targeting purposes.

Details of the Wales Office special adviser is available in the quarterly publication of the list of special advisers which is available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

We do not have any other ministerial appointed policy advisers.

All vetting for the Wales Office is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Justice, which liaises with the Defence Vetting Agency to undertake the CTC, SC and DV checks.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of licence applications under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were *(a)* granted and *(b)* rejected in each of the last three years. [78306]

Lynne Featherstone: Details of the number of licences granted and rejected under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 for the last three years are shown in the following table.

A feature of the regulatory regime under the 1986 Act is the discussion that often takes place at an early stage between applicants (or prospective applicants) and the Animals in Science Regulation Unit Inspectorate. This means that proposals unlikely to meet the Act's stringent requirements are revised or withdrawn before formal refusal becomes necessary.

	Granted in 2008	*Refused in 2008*	*Granted in 2009*	*Refused in 2009*	*Granted in 2010*	*Refused in 2009*
Project licences	695	0	541	0	515	0
Personal licences	2,835	0	2,645	0	2,664	0
Certificates of designation	2	0	7	0	4	0

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect the transposition of European directive 2010/63/EU will have on the extent of legislative restrictions on the use of *(a)* endangered species, *(b)* neuromuscular blocking agents, *(c)* dogs, cats and equids and *(d)* purpose breeding of quail and ferrets. [78251]

Lynne Featherstone: The use of *(a)* endangered species, *(b)* neuromuscular blocking agents, *(c)* dogs, cats and equids, and *(d)* the purpose breeding of quail and ferrets are all matters on which views were sought in the public consultation on the options for transposition of European directive 201/63/EU which closed on 5 September 2011.

We are now analysing the responses to the public consultation and will announce decisions on these and other matters covered by the public consultation in due course. We plan to publish a report on the public consultation by the end of 2011.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to articles 4 and 13 of European directive 2010/63/EU on animal experimentation, whether it is her policy to require *(a)* an alternative method or testing strategy not involving the use of live animals to be used whenever it is scientifically feasible and *(b)* an alternative method or testing strategy not involving the use of live animals to be used whenever it is scientifically feasible and if the method is recognised under Community legislation. [78307]

Lynne Featherstone: In the public consultation on the options for transposition of European directive 2010/63/EU we indicated our intention to transpose article 4, on the principle of replacement, reduction and refinement, and article 13, on the choice of methods, as they stand.

We are now considering the responses to the public consultation and will announce any further decisions on these issues in due course. We plan to publish a report on the public consultation by the end of 2011.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas companies, designated as breeding and supply establishments to supply non-human primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research, use wild populations of primates for breeding purposes. [78709]

Lynne Featherstone: Of the overseas breeding centres supplying animals to the UK during the past two years we understand that two use wild populations of non-human primates for breeding purposes. Both have policies for reducing dependence on wild-caught animals for future breeding stock, at least in relation to the animals likely to be bred and supplied to the United Kingdom.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas companies, designated as breeding and supply establishments to supply primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research, wean infants from their mothers at six months or younger. [78710]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office has no jurisdiction or remit to designate or approve overseas breeding and supplying centres. The use of non-human primates from an overseas source in regulated procedures is authorised only when the centre in question has demonstrated that animals bred and supplied to licensees in the United Kingdom will have been weaned at more than six months of age, except in rare cases where infants have been either abandoned or orphaned.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of anti-Semitic attacks during Jewish high holy days in (a) 2010 and (b) 2011; and if she will make a statement. [R] [78675]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

Individual police forces collate and analyse intelligence on the number of anti-Semitic attacks, in order to inform local operational decisions and to provide adequate protection at times of demand. In addition, the Association of Chief Police Officers analyses this intelligence, to inform forces of any emerging challenges. Data on attacks on Jewish High Holy Days are not separately identified.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks; and if she will make a statement. [R] [78676]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

Hate crime, including that targeting a person's religion, is an issue the Government take very seriously. We are working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and other partners to encourage the reporting of all hate crime and improve the response of the police and other criminal justice agencies to ensure better protection for victims.

The cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism and the police regularly meet representatives of the Jewish community to discuss the protection of the Jewish community against anti-Semitic attacks. The anti-Semitism working group and the cross-Government Hate Crime Strategy Board have a number of actions in train to tackle anti-Semitism, which are reassessed on a regular basis. These include funding the security needs of Jewish faith schools within the state school sector, challenging anti-Semitism in online media, improving the recording of all hate crime, including anti-Semitic hate crimes, and improving the training of hate crime prosecutors.

Asylum

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases have been settled in Ashton-under-Lyne constituency in each year since March 2007; how many such cases have resulted in the asylum seeker being *(a)* removed, *(b)* granted leave to remain and *(c)* granted discretionary leave to remain. [77395]

Damian Green: Information is not held in relation to the specific date on which individuals move to certain areas. We have therefore provided figures for the number of legacy asylum cases based on the applicant's last known address with postcodes in the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency. The total number of legacy cases in the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency is 130. Of those, 105 have resulted in the asylum seeker being granted leave to remain, five have resulted in the asylum seeker being granted discretionary leave to remain and five have resulted in the asylum seeker being removed.

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures were extracted on 26 October 2011.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what equality impact assessment has been carried out in respect of the reforms proposed as part of the Asylum Improvement Project; and if she will make a statement. [78701]

Damian Green: The Asylum Improvement Project (AIP) spans a large number of pilots/projects. Equality impact assessments (now called policy equality statements) have been completed for AIP projects/pilots where appropriate. For example policy equality statements (PES) have been completed for:

i-Apply asylum support applications (online asylum support applications)

Experian checks on support applications

Electronic appeal bundles for asylum support appeals

Where no PES has been completed, this may be for one of a variety of reasons:

one is currently being completed; the pilot/project has not involved the introduction of a new process or policy, or because the pilot/project may alter during its life, and by virtue of being a test of a new way of working, results are not yet known and therefore a decision cannot yet be taken on roll out and PES requirements.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on measures to improve gender sensitivity in the asylum process; and if she will make a statement. [78702]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is working closely with a range of key corporate partners in developing improvements to the asylum system, with the ambition of running an asylum system which is truly gender sensitive. In particular, the agency recognises that women can face particular forms of persecution that are quite often different from those faced by men, and is committed to ensuring that women's claims for asylum are dealt with as fairly and sensitively as possible. The agency is looking to develop a system which caters for, and reflects, the needs of women.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed by the UK Border Agency's Case Assurance and Audit Unit to deal with casework. [79436]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's Case Assurance and Audit Unit employs a total of 126.87 full-time equivalent staff.

Asylum: Employment

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted the right to work after 12 months in each of the last five years. [79194]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not routinely collect statistics relating to the number of asylum applicants who are given permission to work. This is because an application for permission to work is not recorded as a separate case type on the agency's case information database. Any application of this nature is instead dealt with by the case owner as part of the application for asylum with the outcome being recorded within the case notes. To provide the complete set of data requested it would be necessary to look at each individual application for asylum that has exceeded the 12 month point in the last five years and record whether an application for permission to work has been made and if so granted. The cost of doing so would be disproportionate.

However, between mid-August and the end of November 2010 the agency did run an exercise to collate statistics on the number of asylum seekers who were granted permission to work. Those figures are as follows:

Number of asylum seekers granted permission to work between 13 August and 24 November 2010

	Number
Total applications received from 13 August to 24 November	188
Total grants from 13 August to 24 November	88

Number of asylum seekers granted permission to work between 13 August and 24 November 2010

	Number
Totals refusals from 13 August to 24 November	100

These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants her Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79080]

Damian Green: Although the Home Office and UK Border Agency have made grant payments to fund charitable organisations over the past five years, and may continue to do so in the future, it would not be possible to fully answer this question to the level of detail required without incurring disproportionate cost. Our systems record payments to not-for-profit organisations, which includes charities but also other philanthropic institutions and social enterprises. Hence, to do so would require investigating more than 300 not-for-profit recipients, identifying whether they make payments to charities as a lead partner.

As with all grant funding in the Home Office and agencies, grants paid to charities are monitored to ensure that recipients deliver the objectives of individual projects as well as contributing to the strategic aims of the Department.

The Criminal Records Bureau, Identity and Passport Service and the National Fraud Authority have not provided any funding to charities over the previous five years, and have not allocated any budget to fund charities over the spending review period.

Civil Disorder

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to facilitate co-operation between police forces in the event that they are called to deal with widespread public disorder; and if she will make a statement. [78144]

Nick Herbert: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 makes provision for the Home Secretary to issue a Strategic Policing Requirement to which all police and crime commissioners and chief constables will have regard. It will set out the policing capabilities that are expected to be delivered by police forces working together in order to tackle national threats such as terrorism, public disorder and civil unrest, organised crime and civil emergencies.

Police force co-operation and requests for mutual aid under section 24 of the Police Act 1996 are co-ordinated by the Association of Chief Police Officer's Police National Information Co-ordination Centre.

Crime: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the level of crime in rural areas. [78750]

James Brokenshire: In 2010-11, there were 593,146 offences recorded by the police in those forces deemed to be rural according to 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' guidance. This represents a fall of 4% over 2009-10. Further detail is provided in the table.

Offences recorded in rural police force areas[1]

Offence group	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*% change*
Violence against the person	126,226	123,637	-2
Sexual offences	8,938	9,496	6
Robbery	3,386	3,551	5
Burglary	72,186	71,481	-1
Offences against vehicles	58,904	53,253	-10
Other theft offences	153,120	155,605	2
Fraud and forgery	16,445	15,648	-5
Criminal damage	137,982	121,166	-12
Drug offences	28,423	28,484	0
Other offences	11,292	10,825	-4
Total	616,902	593,146	-4

[1] Forces deemed 'most rural' and 'less rural' according 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (ACORN). Forces are: Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk. North Yorkshire, North Wales, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire.

Criminal Records: Databases

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what fee she proposes will be payable for individual subscriptions to her planned online criminal records system. [79191]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave during the Public Bill Committee, (Bill 146), sixteenth sitting, 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 643.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 957-8W, on departmental procurement, how many contracts involved the provision of consultancy services; how many contracts involved the employment of a consultant within her Department; whether any such consultants remained in employment on the latest date for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [77719]

Damian Green: Pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 958W, on departmental procurement, two contracts involved the provision of consultancy services. These contracts continue and consultants remain engaged.

The Department's commercial objectives require consultancy services to be commissioned in terms of defined output, not in terms of individuals assigned by the firms. Each consultancy requirement is scrutinised, to prove operational necessity and to ensure that the need cannot be met by permanent staff.

The Department has spent £28 million less in the first six months compared to the same period last year.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78915]

Damian Green: Information up to June 2011 is set out in the following tables. Information on Freedom of Information Act performance for Government Departments in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2011 will be published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in late 2011 or early 2012. The most recent MoJ statistics are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/index.htm

Table 1: Freedom of information requests received by the Home Office, May 2010 to June 2011

	2010							
	May	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Requests received	200	262	278	234	268	279	327	221
Substantive response within 20 working days	145	191	216	193	221	229	254	191
Holding response within 20 working days	55	76	61	41	47	49	73	30
No substantive response within 40 working days	10	10	18	7	6	13	15	7
No substantive response yet issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2011					
	January	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Requests received	272	311	284	217	263	306
Substantive response within 20 working days	243	266	246	194	239	275
Holding response within 20 working days	29	44	38	23	24	30
No substantive response within 40 working days	9	9	12	8	6	7
No substantive response yet issued	0	0	0	0	0	1

Note:

The columns do not sum because (a) in some cases both a holding and a substantive response may have been sent within 20 days and (b) in some cases a holding response may have been sent within 20 days but no substantive response was sent within 40 days.

Table 2: Freedom of information responses sent by the Home Office, May 2010 to June 2011

	2010							
	May	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Information released in full	68	79	106	83	100	89	87	108
Information released in part	19	22	24	48	35	37	32	30
Information withheld in full	13	25	11	15	56	23	17	15

	2011					
	January	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Information released in full	95	97	111	76	81	95
Information released in part	39	34	43	35	28	32
Information withheld in full	12	17	18	24	27	38

Note:

The figures do not include cases where no information was held or where the cost limit was invoked.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by her Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78916]

Damian Green: Information on Freedom of Information Act performance for Government Departments is published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The most recent MoJ statistics are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/index.htm

Figures on requests refused because they relate to commercially sensitive information are published in the quarterly MoJ statistics, Statistics for the 3rd and 4th quarters will be published by MoJ in late 2011 or early 2012. Figures on requests which were not answered because to do so would exceed the cost limit, or because they were vexatious or repeat requests, are published in the annual MoJ statistics. The annual statistics for 2011 will be published in early 2012.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Minister in her Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78917]

Damian Green: The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that a Minister must determine whether an exemption applies only in the case of the exemption under section 36 of the Act. Any Minister may determine that section 36 applies. The application of other exemptions in the Act is determined by officials.

Departmental Health Insurance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department pays for private medical insurance for its officials; and what the cost of such payments was in the last year for which figures are available. [79143]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* No officials in the Home Office or its agencies (UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) are provided with private health insurance as part of their employment package.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77338]

Damian Green: Following the Government's commitment to transparency, in April 2011 the Home Office published historical figures (between 2005-10) for ICT losses. In future the Home Office aims to publish these data annually.

These data can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/transparency/lost-mobiles-laptops-media/lost-ict?view=Binary

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72936]

Nick Herbert: The Department's expenditure on furniture and fittings in 2010-11 was £4.251 million. Expenditure in 2009-10 was £3.14 million, and in 2008-09 it was £5.956 million. Breaking these figures down to costs for furniture alone could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Children

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions control and restraint has been used on children as part of the enforced removal process in each of the last five years. [78711]

Damian Green: Detainee custody officers (DCOs) must be certificated by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to carry out their duties and to exercise powers, one of the conditions of which is that they have undergone training on restraint techniques approved by the National Offender Management Service. Officers receive refresher training every 12 months. Separate training is provided for those involved in the overseas escorting of children, using non-pain compliant techniques, Physical Control in Care (PCC).

Any use of restraint is a matter of last resort when all other avenues of persuasion have failed and there is no other option to effect the person's co-operation. Its use must be justified, proportionate and for the shortest possible period to achieve the objective. Officers must report in detail where it has been used.

Restraint on a child is only ever used where it is strictly necessary to prevent self-harm or to protect others and property. In very exceptional circumstances officers may be given authority to physically intervene to enforce a child's removal where, despite attempts to persuade them to comply, they refuse to do so. Interventions may start with guiding or shepherding, before PCC techniques are used.

Information on the number of occasions where DCOs physically intervened in the case of children is not available prior to 2008 and there are no occasions of such interventions in 2011.

Of the 1,124 enforced removals and notified voluntary departure of persons aged under 18 in 2008, there were five instances.

Of the 1,007 enforced removals and notified voluntary departure of persons aged under 18 in 2009, there were eight instances.

Of the 737 enforced removals and notified voluntary departure of persons aged under 18 in 2010, there was one instance.

All interventions occurred at the point of boarding an aircraft, other than one in 2009 in an immigration removal centre.

There have been no interventions at Cedars pre-departure accommodation.

The number of people aged under 18 removed as enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in 2008, 2009 and 2010 (2010 figures are provisional), are a subset of published information compiled under National Statistics protocols available on the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Data on the number of occasions where DCOs physically intervened in the case of children are based on management information, and are not subject to the detailed checks carried out for National Statistics. They are provisional and subject to change. A child is defined as a person aged under 18 years of age.

Deportation: Offenders

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report by the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency entitled, A thematic inspection of how the UK Border Agency manages foreign national prisoners, what steps she is taking to revise the risk assessment of ex-offenders contained in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance. [78761]

Damian Green: Risk of harm to the public is an important consideration when deciding whether or not to detain under immigration powers a foreign national offender who is liable to deportation, but it is not the only consideration. There will be circumstances in which it will be legitimate to detain even where there is no identified risk of re-offending, for example where there is a significant risk of the individual absconding or where the individual's own lack of co-operation is a determinative factor preventing removal.

Risk assessments provided by the National Offender Management Service will always be taken into account, where they are available, when deciding whether or not to detain a foreign national offender under immigration powers. Where such assessments are not available (for example, where the person is not subject to monitoring by the Probation Service) managers will make a decision based on the specific facts of the case.

The UK Border Agency accept the need to ensure that detention is used appropriately and lawfully and have already put in place a package of measures to improve the quality of detention decisions and documentation. For example the detention review template and guidance have been revised to better support caseworkers in making evidence-based detention decisions and demonstrating progress since the last 28 day review. The UK Border Agency will also review the template and guidance for making the initial detention decision to ensure that all detention decisions are based on a sound consideration of the evidence.

Entry Clearances

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the length of time required to process the legacy visa applications by the UK Border Agency. [79140]

Damian Green: In 2006 the Government committed to a review of all older unresolved asylum cases by summer 2011. This was achieved by March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme.

As Jonathan Sedgwick, then Acting Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency, reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 12 September, 479,000 of the 500,500 cases in the legacy programme have been fully concluded. There are 18,000 cases that have received an initial decision but have barriers to full conclusion, which continue to be actively managed by a dedicated casework unit.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of her Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78084]

Damian Green: 63 officials were working in the Legal Adviser's Branch of the Department on 9 June 2011 (the date when the June 2011 numbers were updated), which also provides most of the legal advice for the Department's agencies and some of its non-departmental bodies.

The Government Equalities Office, part of the Home Office since 1 April 2011, employs eight lawyers and one administrative officer. The number of staff working in the legal teams of the Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies is as follows:

The UK Border Agency Cash Forfeiture Team: 20
National Policing Improvement Agency: 10
The Equality and Human Rights Commission: 81
The Independent Safeguarding Authority: two
The Serious Organised Crime Agency: 61
The Independent Police Complaints Commission: 15.

Not all of the officials/staff mentioned above work full-time, and the figures include support staff as well as lawyers.

Public Sector Employee Bids

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if she will make a statement; [74782]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [74821]

(3) how many applications from employees to run services for which her Department is directly responsible she has received since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77604]

Nick Herbert: The Government have stated their commitment that every Department will put in place rights to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services. The Localism Bill, currently going through Parliament, contains a proposed community right to challenge, which will enable local authority employees to express an interest in taking over the service they deliver.

The Government also want to give as many public sector workers as possible the right to mutualise. However, some areas of the public sector—including frontline policing—are exempt because of operational or security concerns.

Currently, on the authority of the chief constable and police authority, police forces may choose to outsource a variety of functions, including, but not limited to, human resources, finance, IT support, legal services, translation services, forensic and scientific testing services, vehicle maintenance and running emergency call centres.

We are exploring options for how rights could be extended to public sector workers within the police service, including working with other Government Departments to determine whether existing models such as pathfinder projects, work force engagement or employee-led spin-offs are appropriate.

Riot Control Weapons

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy that in cases of public disorder, police forces deploy water cannon before baton rounds are deployed. [79184]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The decision to deploy a particular less-lethal weapon is an operational decision for chief officers.

UK Border Agency

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria will be used to determine which of the UK Border Agency hubs will be closed in order to meet the target reduction from 70 to 25 as outlined in the agency's business plan. [78692]

Damian Green: Plans for consolidating our network of hubs are predicated on UK Border Agency, Home Office and wider Government objectives.

At the top of these objectives, the criteria used for determining the location of our future hubs are based on the need to "secure the border", and "reduce costs and improve customer service". Hub closures will be targeted and sequenced in locations where they can provide the greatest contribution to the delivery of these objectives.

UK Border Agency: Finance

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding will be available to the UK Border Agency's regional divisions of *(a)* London and the South East, *(b)* the Midlands and the East of England, *(c)* the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* the North West, *(e)* Scotland and Northern Ireland and *(f)* Wales and South West in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2014-15. [78690]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not in a position to confirm the funding for future years for its regional divisions, as the business planning process for 2012-13 is not scheduled to be completed until March 2012. Once completed, the agency will publish the business plan on its website, which will show its overall budget settlement. Figures for 2014-15 are expected to be available in March 2014.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what change there have been in the number of staff employed by the UK Border Agency in *(a)* London and the south-east, *(b)* midlands and the east of England, *(c)* north-east, Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* north-west, *(e)* Scotland and Northern Ireland and *(f)* Wales and south-west since the comprehensive spending review in 2010. [78561]

Damian Green: Since the comprehensive spending review staff numbers in the named regions above have changed as shown in the following table:

		FTE[1]
Region	*31 March 2011*	*30 September 2011*
(a) London and the south-east	12,886	12,189
(b) Midlands and the east of England	1,360	1,281
(c) North East, Yorkshire and Humber[2]	2,402	2,327
(d) North-west[2]	2,570	2,508
(e) Scotland and Northern Ireland	618	604
(f) Wales and south-west	611	598
Overseas[3]	2,126	2,130
Other[4]	7	5
UK Border Agency total	22,580	21,642

[1] Full-time equivalent actuals, excluding staff on unpaid maternity leave, career break, special leave, or loan to other Government Departments.
[2] Some locations have been reattributed between these areas following Cabinet Office guidance.
[3] European posting and international visa function based abroad.
[4] Staff whose location was not recorded centrally.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are being used to implement job reductions in the UK Border Agency. [78691]

Damian Green: As part of the work force planning process directors must submit work force plans to deliver the services they are responsible for within allocated budgets. Where headcount reductions are necessary it is for directors to formulate proposals as to how they will be achieved.

Strategies for reduction in UK Border Agency include reorganisation and more efficient ways of working, a recruitment freeze and voluntary exit schemes. Where plans are likely to result in surplus staff who may be at risk of redundancy, directors are required to follow the process set out in the Home Office Restructuring, Redeployment and Redundancy Policy.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency officers were employed in each of the agency's regions in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011. [78693]

Damian Green: The periods requested cover both the Border and Immigration Agency and the UK Border Agency as shown. The increase in staffing between 2008 and 2010 is the machinery of government transfer of border detection from HM Revenue and Customs and UK Visas from Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the UK Border Agency.

	Border and Immigration Agency (BIA)		*UK Border Agency (UKBA)*	
Region	*31 March 2007 FTE*[1]	*31 March 2008 FTE*	*31 March 2010 FTE*	*30 September 2011 FTE*
(a) London and the South East	12,101	11,464	13,762	12,189
(b) Midlands and the East of England	930	892	1,638	1,281
(c) North East, Yorkshire and Humber[2]	2,478	2,433	2,562	2,327

	Border and Immigration Agency (BIA)		*UK Border Agency (UKBA)*	
Region	*31 March 2007 FTE*[1]	*31 March 2008 FTE*	*31 March 2010 FTE*	*30 September 2011 FTE*
(d) North West[2]	2,438	2,485	2,887	2,508
(e) Scotland and Northern Ireland	386	403	652	604
(f) Wales and South West	269	360	638	598
Overseas[3]	90	87	2,309	2,130
Other[4]	205	133	18	5
UK Border Agency total	18,896	18,258	24,467	21,642

[1] Full-time equivalent actuals, excluding staff on unpaid maternity leave, career break, special leave, or loan to other Government Departments.

[2] Some locations have been reattributed between these areas following Cabinet Office guidance.

[3] The 2007-08 figures relate to European posting, the 2010-11 figures include the international visa function.

[4] Staff whose location was not recorded centrally.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Welsh Grand Committee: Wrexham

Jessica Morden: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the total cost was of holding the Welsh Grand Committee in Wrexham including staffing, accommodation and travel. [79145]

John Thurso: The cost to the House of holding the meeting of the Welsh Grand Committee in the Guildhall, Wrexham, on 20 October is estimated at £7,600. This figure includes sound recording and transmission, interpretation, accommodation, subsistence and travel, and a small amount of overtime. It does not include Members' travel costs, which fall to be reimbursed by IPSA, nor staff salary costs that would have been incurred anyway. It also includes costs of an earlier visit to Wrexham by staff to plan the arrangements for the meeting.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Dr Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding was allocated to the devolved Administration in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales under the provisions of the Dormant Bank Accounts Act 2008 in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011. [77827]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* The first release of dormant accounts monies from the Reclaim Fund to the Big Lottery Fund was in August 2011. No funding was allocated to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland through the dormant accounts scheme before 2011.

So far £36.5 million has been released to the Big Lottery Fund. The Big Lottery Fund apportions dormant accounts in the following proportions:

England: 83.9%

Wales: 4.9%

Scotland: 8.4%

Northern Ireland: 2.8%.

This means that so far this year, approximately £3.06 million has been allocated to Scotland, £1.79 million has been allocated to Wales, and £1.02 million has been allocated to Northern Ireland.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78920]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury officials normally determine whether exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act (the FOI Act) apply to requests received by the Department.

The exception to this is exemptions under section 36 of the FOI Act (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) which can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a 'qualified person' that the exemption is engaged. In relation to information held by Government, the qualified person must be a Minister. The Economic Secretary, as HM Treasury's departmental Minister, handles section 36 cases. However, all HM Treasury Ministers are qualified persons for this purpose and should the Economic Secretary be unavailable, for example during recess, the decision will fall to the appropriate duty Minister.

Having obtained the opinion of the qualified person on whether or not an exemption under section 36 applies, HM Treasury officials then conduct a second test to determine whether the information should be released in the public interest or protected.

Growing Places Fund

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the announcement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury of 18 September 2011, where the funding for the Growing Places Fund will come from. [76558]

Amber Rudd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the letter from his Department of 13 October 2011, reference 2/05396/2011, in response to the letter from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 19 September 2011, reference AR/EOR/00483, on the Growing Places Fund, when he expects to announce further details of the scheme. [76896]

Danny Alexander: The Departments for Communities and Local Government and Transport will together contribute £250 million towards the Growing Places Fund. The remaining £250 million will be made available from the reserve. DCLG and DFT are currently developing the detail of Government's proposals, including how money will be allocated and the mechanism by which the fund will operate. A prospectus setting out details was published yesterday.

HM Revenue and Customs: Disclosure of Information

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests to HM Revenue and Customs from *(a)* the police, *(b)* trading standards authorities and *(c)* the Serious Fraud Office for disclosure of information for criminal purposes made under the IDG60190 Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 standard procedure for disclosing any information for criminal purposes were refused in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [78747]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is as follows:

Tax year	*Police*	*Trading Standards*	*Serious Fraud Office*
2009-10	473	60	1
2010-11	319	38	0
2011-12 year to date	288	29	0

This excludes any rejections made outside of the centralised team that deals with ATCSA requests, but the number of such requests made is minimal, as these will only made in exceptional circumstances.

Insolvency

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on director behaviour in the event that fewer actions are taken by insolvency practitioners as a result of implementation of the proposed changes to conditional fee arrangements and after the event insurance in insolvency litigation; [79091]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect on HM Revenue and Customs revenue of the proposed changes to conditional fee arrangements and after the event insurance in insolvency litigation in each of the next 10 years. [79092]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

An updated impact assessment was published alongside the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill which includes provisions on the proposed reform of no win no fee conditional fee agreements. Officials are continuing to discuss the likely impacts of these changes in relation to insolvency proceedings.

PAYE

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which providers of payroll software his Department has met to discuss upgrading their products to supply real time PAYE information. [79362]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has been liaising with all payroll software developers registered with HMRC's Software Developers' Support Team since autumn 2010. HMRC has held a number of workshops for payroll software developers to discuss Real Time Information (RTI). These were attended by around 160 developers representing almost 120 software houses. In addition, HMRC officials have held regular meetings with the payroll software industry representative organisations.

A list of respondents to the latest consultation on RTI can be found in the Summary of Responses document published on 30 September 2011 on the HMRC website.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has completed *(a)* repaying overpaid tax and *(b)* collecting underpaid tax as a result of miscalculations of tax liability by HM Revenue and Customs in the PAYE system. [79086]

Mr Gauke: The PAYE system collects tax on account of an individual's liability for the year using code numbers based on the information available at the start of the tax year. For those who move in and out of work, have fluctuating income, or have expenses and benefits, in-year PAYE deductions do not always equal the tax due. For this reason at the end of each tax year, HMRC checks that customers have paid the right amount of tax—usually around 85% of people have paid the right amount. This is part of the normal PAYE cycle of work and has happened each year since PAYE was introduced in 1944.

For the tax year 2010-11 HMRC have completed repaying those customers where they have received all the information from the employer or pension provider. HMRC are now working through the cases where the customer has underpaid and, as last year, where they have received all the information they will complete the process in time to adjust customers' 2012-13 tax codes.

Population: Infrastructure

Angie Bray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the additional cost to the public purse of providing public infrastructure to accommodate future population growth. [78475]

Danny Alexander: Investment in our infrastructure will be vital. The Government estimate some £200 billion of investment in our infrastructure between 2010-15 from both the public and private sector.

In considering planned investment the Government and private investors estimate the level of future demand, population growth being one of a number of factors. Population estimates are subject to change and the impact of an increasing population on our infrastructure need may also change.

Last year the Government published the National Infrastructure Plan setting out their vision and plan for infrastructure investment. The next iteration of the plan will be published later this year.

Taxation: Amusement Arcades

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet representatives of the British Amusement Catering Trades Association to discuss *(a)* taxation and *(b)* the future of the amusements industry. [79419]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

VAT: Construction

Peter Aldous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of a reduction in VAT on building repair and maintenance work on *(a)* economic growth, *(b)* levels of employment and *(c)* small and medium-sized enterprises. [78986]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 713W, and on 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1201W, to the hon. Member for Sefton Central (Bill Esterson).

VAT: Hotels

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received on reducing the rate of VAT for hotels in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympics. [77435]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* I am aware of a number of trade campaigns to reduce the rate of VAT on the tourism and hospitality sectors, including the hotel sector. Generally, these advocate an immediate permanent cut in VAT because other EU member states have reduced rates of VAT for hospitality, and on the basis of some economic modelling. Therefore, they take no account of the significant benefit to the hotel industry of the holding the Olympics in London in 2012.

Businesses in the hotel sector also benefit from measures introduced under this Government. For example, the main rate of corporation tax has been cut from 28% to 26% and the small profits rate of corporation tax has been cut from 21% to 20%.

Welfare Tax Credits: Eligibility

Mr Byrne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how his proposal that families will need to work 24 hours a week in order to claim tax credits from April 2012 will be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [79172]

Mr Gauke: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (Jonathan Reynolds) on 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 481W.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of families affected by his proposal to increase the hours threshold for tax credit entitlement to 24 hours a week; and what the average cost per family will be; [79173]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of families affected by his proposal to increase the hours threshold for tax credit entitlement to 24 hours a week by *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency. [79174]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made.

The increase in the hours rules for couples from 16 hours to 24 hours is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Alcoholic Drinks

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the blood alcohol limit for pilots is. [79018]

Mrs Villiers: The blood alcohol limit for pilots is set out in section 93 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003.

Aviation: EU Action

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what matters were discussed at the recent meeting of European Aviation Safety Agency's Advisory Group of National Authorities on 25 to 26 October 2011; and if she will make a statement. [79020]

Mrs Villiers: The meeting discussed issues relating to the regulation of commercial operations, such as sightseeing flights, which take off and land at the same airport, the requirements for the approval of third country operators and the draft rules for flight time limitations. The discussions will help inform the European Aviation Safety Agency's development of the rules in these areas.

Aviation: Security

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with airport operators on the extension of the trial of the swabbing of religious and cultural headgear to all airports in the UK. [78277]

Mrs Villiers: Officials engage with airport operators on a regular basis. However, the trial of alternative screening processes for headgear is a voluntary one so the decision on whether to participate is an operational matter for individual airports. Most major UK airports have decided to participate.

Aviation: USA

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she plans to meet officials from the US *(a)* Federal Aviation Administration and *(b)* Department of Transportation. [79019]

Mrs Villiers: I have no plans to meet with officials from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or the Department of Transportation. However Department officials have regular contact with officials from these bodies.

Buses: Inspections

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to review regulations in respect of safety inspections under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985. [78295]

Norman Baker: There are no plans at this time to review regulations in respect of safety inspections under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985.

Cycling: Safety

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the use of trixi safety mirrors on the number of road accidents involving cyclists in London; [79459]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the cost effectiveness of the use of trixi safety mirrors in *(a)* reducing accidents involving cyclists and *(b)* encouraging cycling. [79460]

Norman Baker: The Department has provided Transport for London (TfL) with a signs authorisation for the use of cycle safety mirrors (known as "trixi" mirrors) across the Mayor of London's Cycle Superhighway network. The Department has made no assessment of the cost effectiveness of these mirrors in reducing accidents involving cyclists and encouraging cycling in London or elsewhere, although it is aware that TfL is undertaking its own monitoring and will be interested in the outcome of that.

Electric Vehicles: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport where vehicle charging points will be located in central Bedfordshire; and when they will be installed. [78600]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Plugged-In-Places project in the east of England is working with Central Bedfordshire council to initially install eight publicly-accessible charge points in central Bedfordshire. Site selection is ongoing, with charge points likely to be installed in car parks, among other places.

The project aims to install charge points across the wider east of England and is continuing to work with Central Bedfordshire council and other organisations to identify other potential charge point locations to expand the network further.

A number of private sector initiatives are now also installing recharging points in the UK, e.g. under Charge Master's POLAR scheme and Ecotricity's Electric Highway scheme, boosting growth in the national network further. These may also include sites in central Bedfordshire if suitable locations are identified by the private sector promoters.

Invalid Vehicles: Accidents

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what analysis her Department has made of the number of accidents caused by mobility scooters in each of the last five years. [79063]

Norman Baker: Although my Department has no central database which records the number of mobility scooters involved in accidents, we are aware of reports of specific incidents. Road casualty statistics do not currently include mobility scooters as a separate vehicle category. However, I am pleased to note that from 2013, the police will be able to record whether a mobility vehicle has been involved in an accident on the public highway.

Metal Theft

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of replacing cable stolen from each rail franchise in each of the last five years. [78799]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Any cable that is stolen from the railway is stolen from Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the infrastructure, and not the individual rail franchisee.

Network Rail estimates that the cost of replacing stolen cable including replacement cable and labour costs but not the cost of compensation to train operators affected by the disruption, in 2008-09 was £4.4 million; in 2009-10 was £3 million; and in 2010-11 was £4.3 million.

Ports: Liverpool

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reports she has received on statements made by the leader of Liverpool city council prior to the announcement of the outcome of the public consultation on changing the status of the cruise liner terminal in Liverpool stating that *(a)* a settlement had been determined, *(b)* the principle of Liverpool having a turnaround facility had been conceded and *(c)* suggesting legal action against the Government; when she expects to publish the result of the consultation; and if she will make a statement. [78642]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* I am aware of such statements having been reported. The outcome of the consultation was not pre-determined. The responses are currently under consideration and our conclusions will be announced shortly.

Railways

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her assessment is of progress in implementing the Government's plans to upgrade Britain's rail network; and if she will make a statement. [78999]

Mrs Villiers: I am pleased with the progress Network Rail is making in the delivery of the programme of works currently funded for Control Period 4.

Projects are being delivered on time and on budget with some ahead of schedule and at lower costs. These projects are starting to benefit both freight and passenger customers alike.

Railways: Fares

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential effect on female part-time workers of future increases in rail fares. [78771]

Mrs Villiers: The Department gave due regard to the equalities impact of the comprehensive spending review decision on rail fares. This was in accordance with the statutory equality duties in place at the time.

As part of this we considered that if fares increases disproportionately affected non-season (peak) tickets, then women could be disproportionately affected (as they are more likely to work part time than men). However, in practice, we expect that percentage price changes for non-season tickets will be broadly the same as for season tickets. Therefore in proportionate terms, part time workers are likely to be affected in a similar way to full time workers.

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the level of rail franchise revenues in each of the next 10 years. [78503]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Department's internal forecast of revenue in respect of future and existing contracts are commercially sensitive. As such they cannot be published.

Railways: Freight

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the annual number of rail freight tonne kilometres for each of the next 10 years. [78641]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Department uses the agreed rail freight forecasts produced by the rail freight industry working with the Rail Freight Group. A revised rail freight forecast was published in October 2011 covering tonne kilometres to 2019 and 2030. These can be found at:

http://www.rfg.org.uk/userfiles/file/Rail%20Freight%20Demand%20Forecasts%20to%202030_ver2.pdf

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her estimate was at the time of the comprehensive spending review of the amount of money paid by train operating companies to the Government in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13; and what her latest estimate is. [79285]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Forecast expenditure and income from rail franchise contracts formed part of the overall comprehensive spending review settlement for the Department that was published in 2010.

The settlement included an allowance for franchises that had already been contracted along with forecasts for contracts that have yet to be signed.

The Department's forecasts in respect of future contracts along with our estimate of some of the variables within existing contracts (such as revenue share and support figures) are commercially sensitive. As such they cannot be published.

However, contracted subsidy and premium payments in respect of all train operating companies are published on the Department's website as and when contracts are signed. The contractual terms that are published include figures for the base contract payments or premiums along with details of the revenue share and support arrangements that would vary those base payments.

Actual spending on rail is published in the Department's annual report and accounts. A breakdown of subsidy and premiums paid or received in any given year in respect of each franchised train operator is also published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends which is available on their website.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether Network Rail is required to notify her Department prior to the commencement of engineering works; [79315]

(2) whether she has issued guidance to Network Rail on maintaining adequate transport links for rail commuters normally affected by engineering works; [79316]

(3) if she will meet *(a)* Network Rail, *(b)* East Coast Trains and *(c)* other transport stakeholders in Lincoln to discuss Network Rail's engineering works to the track near Grantham on the East Coast Mainline; [79317]

(4) if she will assess the level of disruption to rail transport links to Lincoln arising from Network Rail's engineering works to the track near Grantham on the East Coast Mainline. [79318]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The scope and timing of engineering works are operational matters for Network Rail under the industry's national possessions planning regime which is overseen by the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

Rescue Services

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve the ability of maritime rescue services to deal with the increasing size of ships operating in UK waters. [76546]

Mike Penning: The standard for a nation's maritime rescue services are informed, and to some extent prescribed, by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as part of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention.

The SOLAS convention is progressively amended and adapted to take account of changes to vessel characteristics, including aspects related to increasing vessel size.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) uses an automatic identification system to monitor maritime traffic as part of maintaining an overall picture of vessel traffic and search and rescue response capabilities. This enables the MCA to identify vessels that might be 'at risk' and encourage preventative action before problems arise.

Road Signs and Markings

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many requests for special road traffic sign authorisations her Department has received in each of the last 10 years; and what the annual cost has been of processing these requests. [79149]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 November 2011]*: The numbers of requests for authorisations and authorisations issued for the years 2001-2011 are shown in the following table. We do not hold figures for numbers of requests for authorisations for years before 2007.

Calendar year	*Request for authorisations*	*Authorisations issued*
2001	—	455
2002	—	433
2003	—	197
2004	—	423
2005	—	303
2006	—	261
2007	560	539
2008	631	601
2009	556	532
2010	724	672
2011	705	606

The recent policy document 'Signing the Way' will, as it is implemented, reduce the number of special authorisations which will need to be submitted to the Department.

Details of the costs of authorisations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Shipping: Registration

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age is of ships on the UK Ships Register; and what steps her Department plans to take to achieve the Marine and Coastguard Agency target of achieving an average age for ships on the register of 19 years by March 2015. [76489]

Mike Penning: The average age of ships on the UK Ship Register is 20 years. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's aim of achieving an average age for ships on the register of 19 years is based on encouraging the first registration of new ships and applying rigour when considering applications for the registration of older ships.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made on amending legislation to give the Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) more powers to refuse to accept ships on to the UK register which the MCA defines as not being in the UK's interests. [76490]

Mike Penning: The Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Regulations 1993 give the UK and other members of the Red Ensign Group powers to refuse the registration of ships if they are non-compliant with safety requirements. In line with other flag states, it is our intention to review and simplify these regulations to increase the powers of refusal.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency will be taking this matter forward substantively in 2012 with a view to completing the work in 2013, subject to other regulatory priorities and the outcome of the wider Red Tape Challenge initiative.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Convictions: Industrial Health and Safety

Katy Clark: To ask the Attorney-General what steps he is taking to improve the rate of conviction of those involved in failure to comply with health and safety requirements at work. [78153]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

HSE applies its Enforcement Policy Statement, Enforcement Management Model and the Code for Crown Prosecutors when taking decisions on when to bring a prosecution. This resulted in a conviction rate of 94% in 2010-11. This is a good record, and in order to maintain the quality of enforcement decisions, HSE conducts a rolling programme of regulatory decision making peer reviews. Whether or not a person or company is successfully convicted is a matter for the court having heard the evidence presented.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Law Officers' Departments have received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued; [78927]

(2) in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by the Law Officers' Departments under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010; [78928]

(3) which Minister in the Law Officers' Departments is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78929]

The Solicitor-General: Tables containing the latest available Freedom of Information data for the Law Officers' Departments have been placed in the Library of the House.

Freedom of Information cases received by the AGO are generally dealt with by departmental officials, but either one of the two Law Officers can be consulted in those cases where it is necessary to determine whether information should be withheld under the section 36 exemption (Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs).

The other Law Officers' Departments are public authorities in their own right under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and are responsible for responding to requests for information themselves.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Games 2012: Newspaper Press

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had any discussions with the British Olympic Association on increasing accreditation for local newspapers wishing to report on the London 2012 Olympics. [78734]

Hugh Robertson: I am in touch with Lord Moynihan, Chairman of the BOA, to see if further accreditations can be made available. A copy of the most recent letter I have received from Lord Moynihan on this matter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Television: Licensing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many free television licences were issued in *(a)* Coventry South constituency and *(b)* the area for which Coventry city council is responsible in each of the last five years. [78646]

Mr Vaizey: The administration and enforcement of the television licensing system is the responsibility of the BBC, which operates independently of the Government.

The BBC does not record the numbers of free TV licences issued on a constituency or regional basis.

The BBC has provided the number of free TV licences issued to persons aged 75 or over throughout the UK, since the concession was introduced on 1 November 2000, as shown in the following table.

	Number of free TV licences issued to persons in the UK aged 75 or over
2000-01	3,002,549
2001-02	3,381,000
2002-03	3,395,772
2003-04	3,490,877
2004-05	3,548,595
2005-06	3,604,026
2006-07	3,665,879
2007-08	3,709,445
2008-09	3,776,118
2009-10	3,853,911
2010-11	3,929,753
Total	39,357,925

SCOTLAND

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Mr Jon Moulton and (vi) Mr Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78661]

David Mundell: There have been no such meetings.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79071]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not awarded any grants to charitable organisations in any of the last five years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued; [78897]

(2) in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78898]

Mr Swire: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

	2010											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Total number	13	26	26	15	9	20	21	13	20	12	26	12
Full release	6	9	7	5	5	11	13	6	11	4	10	1
Part release	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	3	3

2010

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
No information released	3	1	6	3	2	4	1	2	1	1	1	0
Withheld under s.43	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Info not held	1	4	11	5	2	5	3	3	3	3	9	7
Cost limit engaged	3	1	2	2	0	0	4	1	2	0	2	0
Vexatious/repeated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full response in 20 days	13	21	21	14	8	17	21	12	18	10	23	11
PIT extended in 20 days	0	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	1
Resolved after 40 days	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Still ongoing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2011

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*
Total number	11	11	16	16	14	31
Full release	1	3	2	6	10	12
Part release	1	3	1	4	0	3
No information released	1	1	1	0	0	3
Withheld under s.43	0	0	0	0	0	0
Info not held	8	3	9	5	4	11
Cost limit engaged	0	1	3	1	0	1
Vexatious/repeated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full response in 20 days	11	10	15	14	14	30
PIT extended in 20 days	0	0	1	1	0	1
Resolved after 40 days	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still ongoing	0	0	0	0	0	1

The Department provides statistical data to the Ministry of Justice regarding its compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Department's performance with regard to the 20 working day deadline for responding to requests submitted under this Act. The MOJ publishes these statistics on a quarterly and annual basis and these can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

The Ministry of Justice is currently compiling statistical returns from all Whitehall Departments for requests received during the third quarter of 2011. These are scheduled to be published on the MOJ website on 15 December 2011. The figures for the fourth quarter of 2011 will be published on 26 April 2012 along with the 2011 annual return.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information made under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78899]

Mr Swire: Officials within the Northern Ireland Office are responsible for reviewing any information held by the Department that is in scope of a request under the Freedom of Information Act and to identify any information that might engage any of the exemption provisions provided under this Act.

However, the exemption provisions of section 36 of the Act (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a Qualified Person (QP) that the exemption applies. In relation to information held by Government, the Qualified Person must be a Minister or, if held by a non-ministerial department, the persons in charge of that department (for example, the chief executive).

If the release of any information under this Act might result in the prejudicial effects outlined by this section of the Act, this information is presented to either the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), or me to decide whether or not this exemption is engaged, depending on the subject matter of the information in question. This information is accompanied by supporting background information that outlines the potential impact of the release of that information and arguments supporting both the release of the information and those that favour it being withheld.

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78509]

Mr Paterson: The following figures relate to staff employed by my Department, in its present form, which came into being on 12 April 2010:

(a) four;

(b) four;

(c) one; and

(d) none.

All figures relate to the 2010-11 financial year.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78530]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for my Department as it is now configured are not available before 12 April 2010 following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions.

In line with the arrangements that apply across all Whitehall Departments, during the 2011-12 financial year 11 members of staff, earning a full-time equivalent salary of up to £21,000 received a pay increase of one incremental step on their pay scale or £250 if they were at their maximum and still earning below £21,000. The average increase was £397. There were also 62 members of staff who assimilated on to the Ministry of Justice pay scales in 2010-11 and three members of staff who assimilated on to the MOJ pay scales in 2011-12. This change forms part of the framework of the new arrangements that were put in place on 12 April 2010, as a consequence of the completion of devolution. The average increase in 2010-11 was £1,208 and £1,509 in 2011-12.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78533]

Mr Swire: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available before 12 April 2010 following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions.

During 2010-11, the Northern Ireland Office paid special bonuses to 39 members of staff in recognition of one-off exceptional pieces of work and/or for exceptional and sustained effort and results over a period of six months or more. The highest bonus paid to any member of staff was £750 and the average was £348.

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78518]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparative figures are not available prior to this date.

Since 12 April 2010 my Department has made 11 statutory instruments.

My Department issued no other secondary legislation (e. g. statutory rules) in the above period. The information relating to ministerial orders could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78506]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures are, therefore, not available for the Department as it is now configured prior to April 2010.

The Department receives support from the Home Office Legal Adviser's Branch (HOLAB) and from the Crown Solicitor's Office for Northern Ireland. It also receives occasional advice from other Government bodies, such as the Treasury Solicitor's Office (TSO).

During the financial year 2010-11 the Department spent £773,000 on legal costs arising from work undertaken by HOLAB and TSO. The costs for the first six months of the financial year 2011-12 are approximately £343,000. The costs of legal work undertaken by the Crown Solicitor's Office for Northern Ireland for 2010-11 was £147,000, and for 2011-12 was £51,000.

The Northern Ireland Office does not commission external legal advice itself, but in acting on behalf of the Department, these bodies will from time to time instruct counsel.

Since April 2010, the Department has been taken to court 11 times (including industrial tribunals and judicial reviews). The NIO was dismissed from three of these and the remaining cases are ongoing.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011. [78524]

Mr Paterson: The Department receives legal support from a range of Government bodies, including the Treasury Solicitor's Office (TSOL), the Home Office Legal Advisor's Branch (HOLAB), the Departmental Solicitor's Office and the Crown Solicitor's Office.

The Northern Ireland Office does not commission external legal advice itself, but in acting on behalf of the Department, these bodies may from time to time instruct counsel.

The external costs for support from HOLAB during the first six months of the 2011-12 financial year are approximately £369,000. The costs for advice from TSOL for the first six months of the 2011-12 financial year were £32,568.

The costs of legal advice arising from work undertaken by the Crown Solicitor's Office for Northern Ireland in the financial year 2010-11 were £3,000 and in the first six months of 2011-12 were £2,000.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given of the length of the attendance allowance claim form. [78299]

Chris Grayling: It is essential that all the right information is gathered at the start of a claim so the correct amount of benefit can be decided and paid with as little delay as possible. Claiming attendance allowance inevitably involves the customer or their representative answering detailed and sensitive questions about their personal circumstances, this is unavoidable if help is to go to people who meet the entitlement conditions set by Parliament.

Carers: Grandparents

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial support is available from his Department for grandparents who are the primary carers of their grandchildren; whether any further support is planned during the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [78674]

Maria Miller: Grandparents who care for their grandchildren or other members of their family aged 12 or younger for 20 hours or more a week have been able to gain national insurance credits towards the basic state pension from April 2011.

Income support and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) can be claimed by any person, including grandparents, who has taken on responsibility for a child which is not their own. The exact amounts that they receive will depend upon the individual circumstances of each case. A single foster carer may also be entitled to income support for his or her own needs.

This general policy will be taken forward in universal credit. Working kinship carers will be able to claim the child care element in universal credit on the same basis as any other parent.

Local authority payments can also be made in particular circumstances.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were employed by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in the most recent period for which figures are available. [77657]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people were employed by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in the most recent period for which figures are available. [77657]

As at June 2011, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement commission employed 7,900 full time equivalent staff. This information is available on page 5 of the June 2011 Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), which is available at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/qss/QSS_June_2011.pdf

and in the House of Commons library.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the total monetary value of outstanding child maintenance payments *(a)* due to resident parents and *(b)* owed by non-resident parents living in the London borough of Bexley. [77533]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment he has made of the total monetary value of outstanding child maintenance payments (a) due to resident parents and (b) owed by non-resident parents living in the London Borough of Bexley. [77533]

As at June 2011, £13,677,000 in arrears was owed on cases where the parent with care is resident in Bexley. £7,742,000 of this is owed specifically to the parent with care with the remainder owed to the Secretary of State. Non-resident parents living in Bexley owed £13,555,000 in child maintenance arrears which comprises arrears owed both to the Secretary of State and parents with care. These outstanding maintenance arrears have accumulated since the Child Support Agency was established in 1993.

Further information by Local Authority is available on the internet at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/xls/regional0611.xls

and in the House of Commons library.

These figures are arrears for cases administered on the Child Support Agency's computer systems, and are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds. It is not possible to break down arrears by Local Authority for cases managed off the Agency's computer system so these figures will not add up to the total reported in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics published in June 2011.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the methods used to calculate child maintenance payments to be paid by non-resident parents. [77540]

Maria Miller: I have received a number of representations on the methods used to calculate maintenance, and these have reflected a wide cross-section of personal circumstances. For example many non-resident parents express concern that the 2003 scheme rules take no account of the income of parents with care, while some parents with care believe that the maintenance calculation should take account of a higher proportion of a non-resident parent's income.

There are no plans to change the scheme rules of the Child Support Agency's two current schemes, but in our Green Paper "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance", published on 13 January 2011, we confirmed plans to introduce a single new child maintenance scheme from 2012. This new scheme will make use of income data from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Detailed rules about the methods to calculate child maintenance in the new scheme will be contained in regulations which will be subject to public consultation before the new scheme goes live. The start of the consultation process will be publicly-announced in due course.

I and my officials have met, and will continue to meet, a number of organisations representing separated parents to discuss the way in which the new scheme will operate.

Construction: Jarrow

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in the construction industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [79392]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of businesses in the construction industry in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. [79392]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show the number of enterprises in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the United Kingdom between 2000, the earliest year for which data are available, and 2011 for the construction sector.

Count of VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises in the construction sector, 2000-11

Number

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North-east*	*UK*
2000	—	178	4,655	188,495
2001	—	173	4,695	192,526
2002	—	179	4,741	193,880
2003	98	186	4,751	195,184
2004	98	202	5,085	203,333
2005	111	219	5,545	214,402
2006	123	239	5,965	222,526
2007	142	258	5,818	232,190
2008	161	293	6,890	249,934
2009	187	307	7,794	289,085
2010	182	295	7,328	274,413
2011	170	284	6,831	262,465

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77374]

Chris Grayling: The DWP has acquired 36 assets costing more than £250,000 between 1 May 2010 and 31 October 2011 totalling approximately £202.2 million.

The assets all relate to software, IT development and software licences.

The largest purchase was the implementation of the first phase of the central payment system (CPS) at £73.8 million, which has modernised benefit payments.

A further £44 million has been incurred for software development on the reassessment of incapacity benefit customers.

In addition, £48 million incurred on seven assets within a project to develop a single customer view which underpins the DWP Enquiry Service.

The remaining 27 assets have the following categorisation: 12 relate to software licences, two relate to IT and 13 to software development.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78900]

Chris Grayling: The Ministry of Justice publishes annual and quarterly reports containing statistical information on Freedom of Information requests received by monitored bodies, including central Government Departments.

The first two quarterly reports for 2011 can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

Annual and quarterly reports for 2010 and the annual statistics from 2005 can also be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/mojstats/2010%20Annual%20and%20Q4%20FOI%20bulletin%20vfinal.pdf

These reports include statistics on the number of non-routine requests received by this Department and the initial outcomes of these requests. It also contains the number of complaints to the Information Commissioner of which we have been notified, and the outcomes of these complaints.

In addition, copies of each report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78901]

Chris Grayling: The Ministry of Justice publishes annual and quarterly reports containing statistical information on Freedom of Information requests received by monitored bodies, including central Government Departments.

The first two quarterly reports for 2011 can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

Annual and quarterly reports for 2010 and the annual statistics from 2005 can be found at the following address:.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/mojstats/2010%20Annual%20and%20Q4%20FOI%20bulletin%20vfinal.pdf

These reports include statistics on the number of non-routine requests received by the DWP and the initial outcomes of these requests. It also contains the number of exemptions used for commercially sensitive information, information not held, too costly to provide and vexatious or repeated requests.

In addition, copies of each report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The quarter three statistics for 2011 are currently being collected and will be published in due course.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information made under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78902]

Chris Grayling: Departmental officials normally determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

However, the exemption under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person that the exemption is engaged. In relation to information held by a Government Department like the DWP the qualified person must be a Minister.

In such instances officials normally seek the opinion of the Minister responsible for the relevant subject matter.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011. [78066]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) The cost of the internal legal services section for the period for the first six months of the financial year is £4.9 million. These are made up of salary costs for lawyers and support staff, plus other costs e.g. training and travel, but do not include departmental overheads e.g. accommodation and IT.

(b) DWP does not hold information in the format requested in relation to expenditure on external legal advice commissioned across the whole of DWP. We could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

We are able to advise that expenditure on external legal services, commissioned by DWP's internal legal services section for the same period was £2.0 million[1].

External legal advice is commissioned for a variety of reasons. These include the need for specialist advice in areas where relevant expertise does not exist within internal legal services, and particularly complex or important matters where counsel's view may be sought to complement internally produced legal advice.

[1] Expenditure on external legal services comprises a range of payments, including payments to meet other sides' costs, where these are required to be paid as a result of litigation; payments made to counsel from the Attorney-General's approved list for prosecutions, litigation or advisory services; and payments to local agent solicitors for prosecutions, some civil litigation and other occasional work. It does not however include information about legal services provided to DWP pursuant to outsourced arrangements. A more detailed breakdown of this expenditure could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78095]

Chris Grayling: DWP does not hold information in the format requested in relation to all of the DWP's expenditure on external legal advice. We could provide the information only at disproportionate cost. The information we do readily hold on expenditure on external legal services includes information about expenditure on instructing counsel.

The DWP's expenditure on external legal services[1], commissioned by its legal department, in the financial years 2005-06 to September 2011 is set out in the following table.

[1] Expenditure on external legal services comprises a range of payments, including payments to meet other sides' costs, where these are required to be paid as a result of litigation; payments made to counsel from the Attorney-General's approved list for prosecutions, litigation or advisory services; and payments to local agent solicitors for prosecutions, some civil litigation and other occasional work. It does not however include information about legal services provided to DWP pursuant to outsourced arrangements. A more detailed breakdown of DWP's expenditure on external legal services could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on external legal services

Expenditure	
Financial year	*Total spend (£ million)*
2005-06	5.1
2006-07	5.6
2007-08	5.3
2008-09	4.5
2009-10	4.6
2010-11	4.1
2011-12[1]	2.0

[1] April to September 2011.

The number of files that the litigation division of the DWP opened relating to judicial review and other cases is detailed in the following table, for each year from 2008 to the end of June 2011. Not all of these cases will have resulted in legal proceedings being issued as they may have been resolved before that stage. A more detailed breakdown of whether a case resulted in legal proceedings and the outcome of any such cases could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

		Number
	Judicial review	*Other*[1]
2008	75	332
2009	145	446
2010	204	549
2011 (first 6 months)	75	327

[1] Some cases which originated as judicial review cases but have subsequently been appealed to the Court of Appeal or Supreme Court (formerly the House of Lords) may have been included as "Other" cases. It is also possible that some cases involving human rights claims may have been included as "Other" cases even though they were judicial review cases. In each case this is because it would result in disproportionate cost to determine whether the cases were or were not JR cases.

NDPBs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78120]

Chris Grayling: The figures of civil servants employed directly and otherwise within non-departmental public bodies for which this Department is responsible are shown in the following table:

	Dates of information	*Total number of civil servants (in full-time equivalent)*
Number of civil servants employed directly by NDPBs	31 March 2000	3,925.00
	31 March 2005	3,777.00
	31 March 2007	3,562.00
	31 March 2010	12,041.81
	30 September 2011	11,206.07
Number of civil servants otherwise employed by NDPBs, e.g. secondment, loan	31 March 2000	16.00
	31 March 2005	30.00
	31 March 2007	49.20
	31 March 2010	101.25
	30 September 2011	60.75

Departmental Publications

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of changing from use of the term "customer" to the term "client" in guidance and documentation issued by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [79364]

Chris Grayling: Changing the term "customer" to "claimant" was done at no additional cost. Any changes to documents or guidance were implemented when the guidance was due to be updated.

Disability Allowance

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the cost was to the public purse of severe disablement allowance payments due to a main disabling condition of chronic pain in each local authority area in the last year for which figures are available; [78003]

(2) how many people received severe disablement allowance due to a main disabling condition of chronic pain in each local authority area in the last year for which figures are available. [78004]

Maria Miller: The information as requested is not available.

The term "chronic pain" is a general one that refers to persistent pain lasting anywhere from three to six months, therefore chronic pain can be a result of a large number of diagnoses that cause pain. The medical condition of severe disablement allowance claimants is recorded using a grouped version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD10), and the only codes that specifically indicate chronic pain are those for 'Chronic intractable pain' and 'Other chronic pain', both of which come under the general heading of 'Pain not elsewhere classified'.

Figures for 'Pain not elsewhere classified' are provided in the following table; however, this is unlikely to be an accurate reflection of those individuals with chronic pain. The cost to the public purse cannot be calculated because the numbers are too small to quote for severe disablement allowance with this medical code by local authority.

The following table shows the number of severe disablement allowance claimants in Great Britain and abroad, May 2010 to February 2011

	All diagnoses	*Pain not elsewhere classified*
May 2010	233,710	1,060
August 10	231,550	1,050
November 2010	229,000	1,030
February 2011	226,300	1,020

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment.

Source:
DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Under the employment support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the personal/work capability assessment.

Driving: Disabled

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost per individual is of providing specially adapted motor vehicles for disabled drivers. [76272]

Maria Miller: The Department works closely with Motability but it is an independent charity and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability Scheme. Support for vehicle adaptations is provided through Motability's own charitable fund or the Specialised Vehicles Fund, which Motability administers on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

The average contribution to the cost of adapted vehicles from the Specialised Vehicle Fund in 2010-11 is contained in the following table. This contribution is in addition to the disabled person's higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance being committed to a five year lease through the Motability Scheme.

Average Specialised Vehicles Fund contribution in 2010-11

Adaptation	*Number of vehicles*	*Average Specialised Vehicle Fund contribution (£)*
Passenger Wheelchair Adapted Vehicle	1,793	3,750
Drive from Wheelchair Adapted vehicle	373	24,000
Other adapted	233	7,000

Note:
The Specialised Vehicles Fund primarily provides financial assistance to those severely disabled scheme customers who require complex vehicle adaptations that allow them to enter a car as a passenger while remaining seated in their wheelchair or enables them to drive their car while seated in their wheelchair.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 426-7W, on the employment and support allowance, how much arising from personal and occupational pensions was disregarded for the purpose of calculating contributory employment support allowance entitlement in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [79127]

Chris Grayling: The disregard for occupational and personal pension income was introduced in 2001 for incapacity benefit claims. The disregard is £85.00 per week plus half any excess. The same disregard was introduced into contributory employment and support allowance in October 2008, when it replaced incapacity benefit. The value of the disregard remains unchanged since its inception.

Employment Schemes

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed people have become self-employed through the use of enterprise clubs since April 2011. [78578]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not publish statistics on the numbers of people who have become self-employed through the use of enterprise clubs. Enterprise clubs are a locally driven initiative and their support can be accessed without referral from Jobcentre Plus.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department has spent on the Supporting Youth Employment scheme to date; [79155]

(2) how many people have secured employment under the Supporting Youth Employment scheme. [79154]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not recognise the Supporting Youth Employment scheme, therefore the information requested is not available.

Employment: Electronic Government

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has considered increasing the capacity of the Directgov online jobs search to handle more users. [79305]

Chris Grayling: The Directgov job search has been built as a scalable solution. Usage is constantly monitored and any increased capacity requirements will be facilitated by increasing the amount of hardware required in support of the service.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons users of the Directgov online jobs search cannot search beyond a 15-mile radius of the user under the category all jobs; and if he will consider expanding the job search radius. [79306]

Chris Grayling: The Directgov vacancy database, supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions, holds approximately 115,000 vacancies at any one time with vacancy data updated daily. Such a significant amount of data processing requires a number of search constraints in order to protect service integrity.

Searches for 'all jobs' are very popular and will usually return the current maximum of 250 vacancies that the service can display; in addition such search requests have been limited to a 15 mile search radius.

In response to customer feedback, a number of service improvements are currently being considered, including the maximum number of vacancies displayed and an increase to the radius search area.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unique users visited the Directgov online jobs search page in each of the last 36 months for which figures are available. [79311]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The system measures individual search sessions, so a unique user may search 10 times a day. This will be recorded as 10 sessions. The following tables offers user session information that is available:

November 2008 to October 2009

Month	*User sessions*
November	439,398
December	350,075
January	672,135
February	2,972,195
March	3,650,120
April	3,439,207
May	3,744,478
June	4,416,138
July	4,840,956
August	4,624,624
September	3,964,570

November 2008 to October 2009

Month	*User sessions*
October	4,705,881
Total	37,819,777

November 2009 to October 2010

Month	*User sessions*
November	4,481,441
December	3,616,351
January	7,749,935
February	7,507,888
March	8,235,478
April	7,290,295
May	7,236,443
June	7,602,041
July	8,181,994
August	8,023,040
September	8,415,311
October	8,076,240
Total	86,416,457

November 2010 to October 2011

Month	*User sessions*
November	8,003,336
December	5,585,671
January	9,735,834
February	9,162,881
March	10,077,864
April	8,025,887
May	9,208,410
June	8,830,365
July	8,782,867
August	8,370,552
September	8,706,295
October	8,516,291
Total	103,006,253

Source:
Speedtrap and Webtrends Analytics tools

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many simultaneous unique users the Directgov online jobs search system is capable of handling. [79312]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The system capacity is not measurable in terms of numbers of simultaneous unique users.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unique users he expects to visit the Directgov online jobs search in the next year. [79313]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The Directgov job search system records user sessions, rather than unique users.

Incapacity Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of letters sent to incapacity benefit claimants informing them that their reassessment was about to commence in each week since the beginning of February 2011. [79526]

Chris Grayling: Between 28 February 2011 and 3 April 2011 my Department issued 1,000 letters each week to incapacity benefit claimants informing them that their reassessment was about to commence. This figure increased to 7,210 a week from 4 April 2011 and since 5 May 2011 the Department has issued 11,005 letters each week. This will continue until the 27 December 2013.

Income Support

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of those in receipt of income support who have never been in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment. [78302]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely number of lone parents claiming income support in each of the next three years. [78303]

Chris Grayling: We estimate that the number of lone parents claiming income support in the next three years, with the current year for comparison, will be:

	Number
2011-12	602,000
2012-13	514,000
2013-14	460,000
2014-15	440,000

Note:
Figures include all lone parents who claim income support including those who are claiming on grounds of incapacity for work, being a carer, or other reasons.
Source:
Budget 2011 forecasts

This reduction reflects:

1. The lone parent obligation reducing from age of youngest child seven to age five meaning more lone parents will be seeking work and able to access sustainable employment.

2. Reassessment of those on incapacity benefit. Income support can be paid in addition to incapacity benefit but not in addition to employment and support allowance.

Pay: Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations his Department has received on the restoration of the link between salaries and pensions. [78645]

Steve Webb: We are regularly engaged in discussion with stakeholders about the pensions system and pensions reform.

The Government met their commitment to restore the earnings link with the basic state pension. When the earnings link was broken, the basic state pension was 26% of average earnings. By 2009 it was 16%. The restoration of the earnings link will halt this decline.

The Government have given a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of growth in average earnings, prices or 2.5%. This will help provide a more solid financial foundation for pensioners from the state.

Personal Independence Payments

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 12-13, on personal independence payments, what criteria his Department will use to determine sufficient evidence. [77255]

Maria Miller: When providing advice for personal independence payment, trained independent assessors will consider individuals' ability to carry out a series of key everyday activities, set out in regulations. This advice will inform decisions on benefit entitlement, taken by departmental decision makers who are ultimately responsible for ensuring appropriate evidence has been obtained and taken into consideration.

Assessors will need to ensure that they have sufficient evidence on which to base their advice. This evidence will be gathered from a range of sources, partly provided by the claimant and the remainder requested by the assessor. In most cases we envisage that this will also involve information gathered from a face-to-face consultation between the claimant and the assessor. However, such consultations may not always be necessary or appropriate, especially where there is already sufficient evidence available, such as from the claimant themselves or from individuals involved in supporting the claimant, such as their GP, specialist or social worker. Decisions on whether sufficient evidence has been gathered will be based on the circumstances of the case and guidance will be provided to support such decisions. The assessment criteria for the benefit are still being developed.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to encourage people to take up their benefit entitlement. [78647]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 15 November 2010, *Official Report* column 586W.

From October 2013, however, universal credit will provide a new single system of means-tested support for working-age people who are in or out of work. Existing means-tested benefits will no longer be needed. These include income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, income support, working tax credit, child tax credit and housing benefit. As a result people will be better placed to find out what benefits they can get.

State Retirement Pensions: Carers

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people drawing a state pension are carers. [79523]

Steve Webb: In 2009-10 there were an estimated 1.2 million people who were in receipt of state pension and who identified themselves as informal carers.

Notes:

1. This estimate is derived from the Family Resources Survey, which is a nationally representative sample of approximately 25,000 UK private households. Data for 2009-10, the latest year available, were collected between April 2009 and March 2010.

2. The 2009-10 Family Resources Survey estimated that due to under-reporting the number of state pension recipients derived from the survey was 4% less than the number of actual recipients of state pension so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.

3. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government Office Region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

5. Informal carers are individuals who provide any regular service or help to someone in or outside of their household who is sick, disabled or elderly, those who give this help as part of a formal job are excluded from this definition. The definition used is not dependent on receipt of a carer's benefit.

State Retirement Pensions: Public Expenditure

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of uprating *(a)* the state pension and *(b)* benefits at a consumer prices index level of (i) 2.5 per cent., (ii) 3 per cent., (iii) 3.1 per cent., (iv) 3.5 per cent., (v) 4 per cent., (vi) 4.5 per cent., (vii) 4.6 per cent., (viii) 4.9 per cent. and (ix) 5.1 per cent. in 2012-13; and if he will estimate the average change in the level of payments of uprating at each level on (A) women and (B) men in each income decile in receipt of such pensions and benefits. [79622]

Steve Webb: The information requested is provided in the following table for *(a)* the state pension and *(b)* benefits. The table shows the cost of increasing the benefits, by the given rate in April 2012 compared to a baseline of no uprating in April 2012. 'Other benefits' only includes those benefits uprated by CPI. It therefore excludes pension credit as the standard minimum guarantee is uprated by average earnings.

These costs are indicative only. Actual costs will be dependent on increases in benefit rates in April 2012. Proposed benefit rates will be announced to Parliament by ministerial statement later in the autumn.

Cost of up-rating for 2012-13

£ billion, 2011-12 prices

Rate	*State pension*	*Other benefits*	*Total*
2.5%	2.0	1.0	3.0
3.0%	2.4	1.2	3.6
3.1%	2.5	1.3	3.8
3.5%	2.8	1.4	4.3
4.0%	3.3	1.6	4.9
4.5%	3.7	1.8	5.5
4.6%	3.8	1.9	5.7
4.9%	4.0	2.0	6.0
5.1%	4.2	2.1	6.3

Notes:

1. The costing is based on DWP budget 2011 case load forecasts.

2. 'State pension' includes basic state pension up-rated with the triple lock policy, additional pension and graduated retirement pension.

3. 'Other benefits' refers to working age benefits including, income support, jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance, incapacity benefit maternity allowances and statutory sick pay, and also housing benefits and disability benefits. Pension credit is excluded.

4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

We are unable to estimate the average change in the level of payments of up-rating at each level on (A) women and (B) men in each income decile in receipt of such pensions and benefits. This information could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Tax Credit

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made on the potential effect of child and working age poverty of his proposal to increase the hours threshold for tax credit entitlement to 24 hours per week. [79175]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have published their analysis of the cumulative impacts of their policies where they can robustly model them. The most recent analysis can be found in the annex to Budget 2011:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

Universal Credit

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, further to his Department's impact assessment on universal credit, how many people were simultaneously working more than 30 hours per week, receiving working tax credit and not in receipt of housing benefit *(a)* in each of the last two years and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [77267]

Chris Grayling: According to the Family Resources Survey for both 2008-09 and 2009-10 there were estimated to be 1 million benefit units with an adult working more than 30 hours a week, where the benefit unit was receiving working tax credit and not receiving housing benefit. 2009-10 is the latest year for which data are available.

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey (FRS) is a nationally representative sample of approximately 25,000 UK private households. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error. The FRS is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.

2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

3. A benefit unit is defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and dependent children.

4. Housing benefit receipt is recorded at a benefit unit level on the FRS. This analysis is therefore only possible at a benefit unit level.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions further to his Department's impact assessment on universal credit, how many people will be affected by the removal of the rule that allows an individual to claim simultaneously both a disability and a carer premium. [77268]

Chris Grayling: The Department is removing the current overlapping provision that allows people to receive both a disability addition and a carer element. However, as now, couples could get a disability addition for one member and the carer element for the other partner.

Once universal credit is fully implemented we estimate that around 100,000 people will be affected by the removal of the rule that allows an individual to receive both additions.

There will be a package of transitional protection for existing claimants to ensure no cash losers as a result of the move to universal credit, where circumstances remain unchanged.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions further to his Department's impact assessment on universal credit, how many couples at the latest date for which figures are available comprised one member of working-age and one member eligible for pension credit. [77269]

Steve Webb: The information available is set out in the table. This provides the number of couples in receipt of income replacement benefits administered by the Department of Work and Pensions.

Number of couples receiving income replacement benefits at February 2011 with one member of working age and one eligible for pension credit

Benefit type	*Claimant over 60 partner under 60*	*Claimant under 60 partner over 60*
Pension Credit	93,200	0
Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance	1,100	1,700
Income Support	2,600	1,900

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. The figures assume that pension credit is available when one partner reaches age 60. However, the qualifying age for pension credit is increasing in line with the increase in women's state pension age. At February 2011 the qualifying age for pension credit was between 60 and four months and 60 and five months. Current data do not allow analysis that takes account of the increase in qualifying age.

3. Jobseeker's allowance is payable until state pension age. Income support is payable until a person reaches the pension credit qualifying age, so these data include those who are over 60 who have not yet reached the pension credit qualifying age.

4. Data are not available for partners of employment and support allowance or incapacity benefit claimants.

5. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources. The proportions from the 5% sample data have been used and applied to the overall 100% total for the benefit to determine the total number of couples.

6. Figures are not available for couples who may be entitled to this support, but do not claim it.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample

Winter Fuel Payments

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people aged between *(a)* 60 and 65, *(b)* 65 and 70 and *(c)* 70 and 80 years in (i) England, (ii) Dudley borough and (iii) Dudley North constituency who will receive the winter fuel payment in each of the next three years. [78333]

Steve Webb: Projections for the numbers of people receiving winter fuel payments are not produced below the Great Britain level. However, if the England, Dudley metropolitan borough and the Dudley North constituency share of cases in 2010-11 were maintained in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 the number of people projected to receive winter fuel payments would be as given in the following tables:

Table 1: Projected winter fuel payment recipients in England

Thousand

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
Below 65	2,486	2,109	1,475
65 to 69	2,463	2,635	2,792
70 to79	3,545	3,593	3,774

Table 2: Projected winter fuel payment recipients in Dudley metropolitan borough

Rounded to the nearest 100

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
Below 65	15,400	13,100	11,000
65 to 69	16,900	18,000	18,800
70 to79	24,100	24,400	25,000

Table 3: Projected winter fuel payment recipients in Dudley North constituency

Rounded to the nearest 100

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
Below 65	3,400	2,900	2,400
65 to 69	4,000	4,200	4,400
70 to79	6,400	6,500	6,700

Source:
Budget 2011 forecasts and DWP statistical data

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations his Department has received on increasing the age range within which people are eligible for winter fuel payments. [78644]

Steve Webb: We have received a small number of representations about extending winter fuel payments to specific groups of people below women's state pension age.

Work Programme

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has instructed Work programme providers not to publish performance information. [79179]

Chris Grayling: Work programme contracts do not allow providers to publish performance information without the Department's express permission. This is in line with UK Statistics Authority guidelines that do not allow the release of information prior to the publication of official statistics. The DWP intends to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and job outcomes from autumn 2012.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data he plans to publish on the number of *(a)* referrals to and *(b)* job outcomes for Tier 1 and Tier 2 subcontractors under the Work Programme (i) in total, (ii) in each contract package area and (iii) of each subcontractor; and when he plans to publish it. [79363]

Chris Grayling: The Department intends to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work Programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012. This is in line with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure published statistics meet the required high quality standards.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which private sector organisations have signed a contract with his Department for delivery of the Work Programme. [79369]

Chris Grayling: The DWP has signed Work programme contracts with fifteen private organisations, namely:

A4e
Avanta Enterprise Ltd (TNG)
Business Employment Services Training Ltd (BEST)
ESG
EOS
G4S
Ingeus UK Ltd
JHP Group Ltd
Maximus Employment UK Ltd
Pertemps
Prospects Services Ltd.
Reed in Partnership
Seetec
Serco Ltd
Working Links

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which voluntary and third sector organisations signed Work Programme contracts; and if he will make a statement. [79383]

Chris Grayling: The DWP has signed Work programme contracts with two voluntary and community organisations, Rehab Jobfit and Careers Development Group.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* each ethnic group and *(b)* of each client type have been referred to the Work programme's prime contractors in each contract area in the last 12 months. [79530]

Chris Grayling: The Department intends to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012. This is in line with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure published statistics meet the required high quality standards.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in attachment fees in each Work programme contract area in the last 12 months. [79531]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme was launched on June 2011. There is a budget of £789 million allocated for this financial year to cover the costs of our Labour Market Support Employment programmes including attachment fees associated with the Work programme.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely number of clients in each Work Programme prime contracting area in the next *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [79532]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows the indicative volumes for claimant starts by contract package area (CPA). The estimates are for the 10-month period from when the Work Programme went live in June 2011, to March 2012.

Volume estimates have been formulated for each year only.

Contract package area		*Total volume of clients for 2011-12*
CPA 1	East of England	46,000
CPA 2	East Midlands	46,000
CPA 3	West London	38,000
CPA 4	East London	45,000
CPA 5	North East	39,000
CPA 6	Merseyside Halton, Cumbria and Lancashire	45,000
CPA 7	North, West and Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Warrington	45,000
CPA 8	Scotland	56,000
CPA 9	Thames Valley, Hampshire and Isle of Wight	29,000
CPA 10	Surrey, Sussex and Kent	31,000
CPA 11	Devon, Cornwell, Somerset and Dorset	20,000
CPA 12	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and West of England	20,000
CPA 13	Wales	35,000
CPA 14	Birmingham, Solihull and the Black County	40,000
CPA 15	Coventry, Warwickshire, Staffordshire and The Marches	30,000
CPA 16	West Yorkshire	28,000
CPA 17	South Yorkshire	19,000
CPA 18	North East Yorkshire and the Humber	18,000
Total[1]		628,000

[1] Totals may not sum due to rounding.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Integration Strategy

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department plans to publish its integration strategy. [79308]

Andrew Stunell: The Government plan to publish a document setting out their approach to integration later this calendar year. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), will make a statement to Parliament at this time.

Affordable Housing: Disability

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people have been assisted by the home ownership for people with long-term disabilities scheme in each of the last three years; and how much funding has been allocated to the scheme in each such year; [78487]

(2) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the success of the home ownership for people with long-term disabilities (HOLD) scheme, and *(b)* the ability of those wishing to access the HOLD scheme to afford their share of the property; [78488]

(3) whether he has any plans to amend the operation or rules of the home ownership for people with long-term disabilities scheme. [78489]

Grant Shapps: The Home Ownership for people with Long Term Disabilities (HOLD) scheme aims to help eligible aspiring home owners whose housing needs cannot be met through the Government's main affordable home ownership programme. It enables purchasers to select a property on the open market suitable to their needs (for example, close to carers), and buy on shared ownership terms with a housing association.

All applicants for our affordable home ownership products, including this scheme, must undergo a robust affordability check and demonstrate to their mortgage lender and the housing association that the costs of home ownership are sustainable for them.

It is a demand-led scheme. My Department provides capital funding to housing associations, through the Homes and Communities Agency's affordable homes programme. We are investing almost £4.5 billion to help deliver up to 170,000 additional affordable homes between 2011-12 and 2014-15. As part of this, housing associations may bid for funding to help with the purchase of properties on the open market for this scheme, where this has the support of the local authority. There are no plans to amend the operation or rules of the scheme.

The following table shows the number of households assisted and amount of funding provided under this scheme in each of the last three years.

	Households assisted	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2008-09	93	3.7
2009-10	137	5.7
2010-11	132	5.7

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency's Information Management System

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75118]

Andrew Stunell: This information on contract awards is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

However we are able to provide a breakdown of actual expenditure with third sector organisation for the period requested which is set out in the following table:

	Third sector organisations (£)
May 2010	174,314
June 2010	1,054,642
July 2010	272,099
August 2010	65,962
September 2010	62,401
October 2010	1,162,744
November 2010	86,278
December 2010	146,376
January 2011	989,366
February 2011	53,288
March 2011	377,055
April 2011	113,706
May 2011	900

	Third sector organisations (£)
June 2011	3,600
July 2011	5,699
August 2011	0
September 2011	0
Total	4,568,430

The analysis of our supplier base which has enabled the identification of third sector organisations was undertaken by an independent company. Please note that this will include public sector bodies.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has contracts with organisations that specialise in *(a)* public relations, *(b)* strategic communications, *(c)* brand management and *(d)* advertising; what the name is of each such organisation; and what the net value is of any such contract. [78244]

Robert Neill: The Department is currently not outsourcing work in *(a)* public relations, *(b)* strategic communications or *(c)* brand management and consequently has no contracts with companies specialising in these areas.

The only major advertising campaign that the Department is running this year is Fire Kills, which urges people to test their smoke alarms regularly in order to avoid deaths and injuries from fire in the home. The national advertising creative elements are handled by agency RKCR/Y&R and the value of their contract this year is £220,000 on current estimates. All advertising is placed in media outlets through the Central Office of Information, the Government's agency for these services.

Housing: Visual Impairment

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes designed specifically for blind or visually impaired people have been *(a)* built or *(b)* adapted in each of the last 10 years; [78490]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued about *(a)* the support required and *(b)* the housing needs, including design, of people who are blind or visually impaired; [78491]

(3) how many assessors have been given specific training in awareness of blindness, low vision and sight loss in respect of housing needs. [78492]

Grant Shapps: We do not keep records relating to the number of homes designed specifically for blind or visually impaired people or details around assessors. However, the Government are committed to encouraging the delivery of homes and neighbourhoods which are safe and inclusive, where nobody is disadvantaged and which all people are able to occupy and use regardless of their ability.

While this Department does not issue guidance on this matter, guidance on meeting the needs of blind or visually impaired people is available for practitioners to draw on from organisations such as the Pocklington Trust who have undertaken extensive research and publish a wide range of technical literature on housing design for use by designers, landlords and home owners:

www.pocklington-trust.org.uk

The Government are also supporting the Design Council to provide advice to practitioners on designing homes and neighbourhoods to meet the needs of people regardless of their ability:

www.designcouncil.org.uk

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the impact of the reduction of the Empty Property Rates threshold on the growth of new business centres. [79064]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave my hon. Friend the Member for York Outer (Julian Sturdy) on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 2MC, and my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Adam Werritty

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any Ministers in her Department have met *(a)* Mr Adam Werritty, *(b)* representatives of Atlantic Bridge and *(c)* representatives of Pargav Ltd in an official capacity in the last 18 months; and what the dates were of any such meetings. [76915]

Richard Benyon: No DEFRA Ministers have met with Mr Adam Werritty, representatives of Atlantic Bridge or representatives of Pargav Ltd in an official capacity in the last 18 months.

Agriculture: Pay

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the possible effect of the abolition of the *(a)* Agricultural Wages Board and *(b)* agricultural minimum wage on (i) pay levels, (ii) employment and (iii) the activities of unlicensed gangmasters in the agricultural sector. [78035]

Mr Paice: On the assumption that the Public Bodies Bill is given Royal Assent, DEFRA will carry out a public consultation on the future of the Agricultural Wages Board. We intend to publish a full impact assessment and equality impact assessment on the effects of any abolition as part of the consultation exercise.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1405W, on wildlife: circuses, if she will publish any advice that she has received from the Better Regulation

Executive on the proposed regulatory framework for setting up and operating a licensing regime; and if she will make a statement. [79028]

Mr Paice: We have been developing our proposals for a licensing regime for wild animals in travelling circuses in line with Better Regulation Executive guidance and advice. This includes the preparation of an impact assessment to be scrutinised by the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC). The impact assessment and draft legislation will be published as part of the public consultation on our proposals early next year.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 381-2W, on zoo: licensing, for what reasons circus inspections were conducted on a confidential basis; and if she will ask those who requested confidentiality to agree to publication and the placing of a copy in the Library. [79029]

Mr Paice: These inspections were conducted to establish the feasibility of an enforceable licensing regime. To ensure full participation, the participants were given assurances that the data collected would be confidential. The reports are confidential and as a consequence we will not release them.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to introduce registration and licensing for camelids. [74629]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has no plans to formally register or license camelids.

Broadband

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries, 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 397, to which broadband league tables she was referring to; and if she will place a copy of those league tables in the Library. [79473]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Lady to the following documents:

the December 2010 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 'Digital Economy Paper No. 165—Indicators of Broadband Coverage', which shows the UK as being among 14 OECD countries with very few or no Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections;

the Ofcom 'International Communications Market Report 2010', which states that household take-up of superfast broadband in the UK at the end of 2009 was 0.2%; and

the Commission for Rural Communities 'Rural Advocate Report 2010', which states that only 1.5% of UK villages and hamlets were able to receive cable-based broadband (as against 60% of urban areas).

I will place copies in the Libraries of the House.

Common Land

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responses her Department has received to its consultation on the designation of town and village greens; and if she will make a statement. [78800]

Richard Benyon: The consultation on proposals for the registration of new town or village greens closed on 17 October 2011. Officials are currently considering all of the responses received and we will announce our conclusions early next year.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost to her Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period her Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [74979]

Richard Benyon: The average cost of processing an invoice is £3.70. This includes all overheads.

Over 99% of the payments issued by DEFRA are issued electronically, with the remainder being issued by cheque. This figure has remained consistent over the course of the last financial year.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees her Department employed in each year since 1997. [75073]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA was created in June 2001 and the following table shows the number of staff in post in DEFRA and its Executive agencies each year since then, in terms of full-time equivalents and headcount. The split between full-time and part-time employees is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Full-time equivalent	*Head count*
1 April 2002	13,737	14,206
1 April 2003	13,513	14,030
1 April 2004	13,442	14,004
1 April 2005	13,205	13,723
31 March 2006	12,983	13,595
31 March 2007	11,814	12,363
31 March 2008	10,640	11,168
31 March 2009	10,189	10,730
31 March 2010	10,042	10,629
31 March 2011	9,112	9,689

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in her Department; and if she will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010; [77885]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in her Department. [77886]

Richard Benyon: The circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks are set out in the publicly available booklet 'HMG Personnel Security Controls', available from the Cabinet Office website.

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts or individuals within the Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in her Department; and if she will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77887]

Richard Benyon: The circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks are set out in the publicly available booklet 'HMG Personnel Security Controls', available from the Cabinet Office website.

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within the Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

The names of special advisers are included in the quarterly publication of the list of special advisers which is available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website.

There are no ministerial-appointed policy advisers in the Department.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter-terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in her Department. [77888]

Richard Benyon: The Department uses Defence Business Services National Security Vetting and FCO Services National Security Vetting to undertake security vetting at counter terrorist check, security check and developed vetting level. These are both Government services.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were in possession of a security pass for her main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77889]

Richard Benyon: Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to security checks. Disaggregating the number of security passes held other than by staff or contractors in each month since May 2010 would incur disproportionate costs.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in her Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of government business. [73213]

Richard Benyon: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct government business.

Fisheries

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of illegal cocklers working in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* Cumbria; and what steps she is taking to reserve permits for local fishermen. [77166]

Richard Benyon: Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) are responsible for the management of cockle fisheries in England. These fisheries are primarily managed through permit schemes. Permitting schemes are district wide in application, and limit the number of active fishermen and/or the quantities of cockles that can be harvested. However, IFCAs do not restrict the issue of permits to local fishermen.

In order to obtain a North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) permit, applicants must provide evidence of identity, evidence of address and a valid national insurance number. They must also complete a one-day training course on safe working in intertidal areas. Permits are restricted to experienced fishermen, although the byelaw provides for 40 new permits to be issued each year from a waiting list.

By its nature, illegal fishers cannot be accurately quantified. IFCAs use all available resources to enforce their individual permit schemes. The NWIFCA is responsible for the management of the cockle fisheries in the North West and Cumbria. 440 permits were issued for 2011-12 under NWIFCA Byelaw No.5.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will assess the potential effects of the closure of the Western Waters scallops fishery on jobs related to the local scallop fishing industry; [77733]

(2) whether she had recent discussions with the Scallop Association on the closure of the Western Waters scallops fishery. [77734]

Richard Benyon: The recent closure of the important Area VII scallop fishery to UK vessels over 15 metres in length has clearly created problems for the sector. We are working with industry to avoid a situation where it causes permanent damage to these businesses and the markets they have worked hard to develop over the years. To reopen the fishery this year the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is seeking to source additional effort from other member states by agreeing international swaps.

Following a preliminary assessment of the likely impact of the closure on the scallop fishing industry, the MMO decided to close the fishery in October as the industry's preference was for an early closure to allow the possibility of them being able to supply scallops to the lucrative French Christmas market.

DEFRA officials and the MMO have been in regular contact with the Scallop Association and other parts of the industry throughout this process. These discussions began prior to the closure, firstly at the UK Scallop Group in June, followed by a dedicated meeting in late August and have been continuing on an almost daily basis as MMO sought to agree the best possible deal for the wider UK fishing industry via international swaps.

Fisheries: Quotas

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress was made on increasing the quota allocation for fish species at the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 21 October 2011; and if she will make a statement. [77015]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister, I attended the Council meeting on 21 October. We had a useful exchange of views on the important EU-Norway negotiations and secured the Fisheries Commissioner's agreement that fishing quotas should not be subject to an automatic cut for those stocks for which data is considered incomplete; instead, total allowable catches will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Though this year's negotiations will be challenging, the removal of the threat of a blanket cut for data-incomplete stocks is a positive development.

Fisheries: Statistics

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department has allocated to the *(a)* collection and *(b)* analysis of data on UK fish stocks in each of the last five years; and how much of such funding she plans to allocate in each of the next four years. [79147]

Richard Benyon: The European Commission's Data Collection Framework (DCF) establishes a European Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy (CFP). The UK overall national programme's actual and forecast figures under this framework are set out below. EU financial assistance for national programmes is provided to member states up to a level of 50%.

	£
Actual	
2007	5,718,828
2008	5,958,746
2009	6,266,058
2010	6,847,338
Forecast	
2011	8,139,028
2012	7,858,681
2013	8,889,999

DEFRA has allocated £3.2 million this year to fund our share of the marine finfish and shellfish data collection element of the above national programme. Data collection is carried out by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

DEFRA has also allocated funding of £2.9 million in the current financial year for CEFAS to carry out additional finfish and shellfish data collection and analysis work.

CEFAS provides expertise to many of the working groups of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) to provide fish stock assessments. The UK also contributes an annual share, within an allocated budget of £0.2 million, for the work of ICES to provide analysis and advice that informs EU annual proposals on fishing opportunities. In addition, the Fisheries Science Partnership scheme, which carries out fishery surveys and other one-off projects working in partnership with fishermen, has departmental funding this year for £0.95 million. This scheme provides data to support ICES assessments.

These budget allocation figures include an overall cut of 5% this year, and continue to be subject to the Government's ongoing comprehensive spending review process.

Floods: Insurance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to announce plans to take forward the statement of principles for flood insurance after it concludes in 2013. [79141]

Richard Benyon: We are working closely with the insurance industry to ensure that flood insurance remains widely available in England after the Statement of Principles expires in 2013, and will provide an update on this work before Christmas.

Food: Prices

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of fuel prices on food prices in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* the next five years. [78099]

Mr Paice: There are a number of factors that affect food prices in the shops, the largest driver being world commodity prices, but with exchange rates and oil prices also having an impact.

Increases in global energy prices increase the cost of agricultural inputs, especially fertilisers, putting an upward pressure on commodity prices. Along the food supply chain, higher energy prices will impact retail food prices by increasing the cost of transporting, processing and marketing.

Recent research modelling undertaken by the university of Nottingham and the university of Exeter for DEFRA[1] showed that the long term effect of a 10% shock to the world price of oil, translates into a 3.50% increase in retail food prices, other factors held constant. However, there will be interactions with other drivers of retail food prices, and the modelling shows that larger persistent shocks have a greater effect than smaller one-off shocks.

DEFRA routinely monitors trends in the affordability of food, looking at both domestic retail food price inflation (as measured by the consumer price index) and changes in the factors that drive domestic retail food price inflation.

[1] Retail Food Price Inflation Modelling Project—T. Lloyd et al, April 2011

Water Pollution

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has commissioned on reducing the loss of phosphorus into watercourses and the sea; and if she will make a statement. [79056]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA funds research on the loss of phosphorus and other pollutants into watercourses and the sea through the following research programmes:

Sustainable Water Management (Agriculture); and

Water Availability and Quality.

The Environment Agency also funds research on agricultural, urban other sources of phosphorus pollution.

This research broadly covers:

Identifying sources of phosphorus and other pollutants, and predicting pollution risk;

Understanding the movement of phosphorus in the environment;

Understanding environmental impacts;

Understanding the interaction between phosphorus and other pollutants; and

Developing cost-effective approaches to mitigating agricultural and other sources of pollution.

DEFRA has recently established three Demonstration Test Catchments to test approaches to the reduction of agricultural diffuse pollution and the improvement of ecological status in freshwaters, while maintaining economically viable food production.

Information and reports on the above mentioned projects can be found on the DEFRA and Environment Agency websites.

Fertilizers

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking with the agriculture sector with the cost of phosphate-based fertilizers. [79055]

Mr Paice: DEFRA provides guidance on accounting for the phosphate content of manures, slurries and other non-mineral fertiliser sources coming into farms, and on reducing phosphate-based fertiliser inputs accordingly, thereby increasing efficiency in the use of phosphorus on farm and reducing input costs. The Department is aware of the effects that fluctuating prices of phosphate and other fertilisers can have on farming businesses, but it is not the role of Government to intervene in the market price of fertilisers.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish e-mails between Mr Adam Werritty and special advisers in his Department pertaining to official business. [75412]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* There are no such e-mails.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he has had meetings with Mr Adam Werritty in an official capacity when civil servants were not present; and whether any other individuals were present at such meetings. [75497]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* I have not attended meetings at which Mr Werritty was present.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many entry passes to his Department were issued to Adam Werritty since the end of April 2010. [76713]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 986W, to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

It is a matter of public record that Mr Werritty made 22 visits to the Ministry of Defence. These are listed in the Annex to the Cabinet Secretary's report into 'Allegations against Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP', which is freely available on the Cabinet Office website at the following address:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/allegations-against-rt-hon-dr-liam-fox-mp-report-cabinet-secretary

This answer corrects the answer provided by my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1281W, to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) in which the number of visits was given as 14.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 30-31W, on Adam Werritty, whether Lord Astor of Hever informed his Department of his meeting with Adam Werritty in Bahrain in December 2010; [77273]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 30-31W, on Adam Werritty, at what large social gatherings the Under-Secretary of State for International Security met Mr Werritty; and where each such event took place; [77275]

(3) how many meetings *(a)* officials in his Department and *(b)* military personnel have attended with representatives of IRG Ltd since May 2010; [77177]

(4) which officials were present at the meeting attended by the Minister for International Security Strategy, Mr Adam Werritty and a representative of IRG Ltd; how the meeting was arranged; and whether notes were taken of the issues discussed; [77178]

(5) what the name is of the representative of IRG Ltd who was present at the meeting attended by the Minister for International Security Strategy and Mr Adam Werritty; [77179]

(6) *(a)* when and *(b)* where the meeting attended by Mr Adam Werritty, the Minister for International Security Strategy and the representative from IRG Ltd took place. [77299]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Secretary (Sir Gus O'Donnell)'s report of 18 October 2011.

The Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my noble Friend Lord Astor of Hever, has met Mr Steven Crouch, a director of IRG Ltd, socially on no more than five occasions over several years. The Minister for International Security Strategy, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth), has had one meeting with Mr Crouch. Records of any other meetings between officials or military personnel with representatives of IRG Ltd are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Howarth's meeting with Mr Crouch, which is referred to in the Cabinet Secretary's report, was at the suggestion of my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) and took place on 27 September 2011 in the House of Commons. No officials were present and no note of the meeting was taken. No substantive issues were raised, no confidential information was disclosed, and there was no follow-up to the meeting. After the meeting had taken place Mr Howarth informed his office in accordance with the Cabinet Secretary's guidelines. The two social events that both Mr Howarth and Mr Werritty attended took place in Wiltshire on 16 July and in London on 24 September 2011.

Lord Astor acknowledged Mr Werritty as they passed in a hotel reception area in Bahrain in December 2010. It was not a meeting, either official or unofficial, and Lord Astor had no further contact with Mr Werritty while in Bahrain. There was, therefore, no requirement to inform the Ministry of Defence about the contact but the incident was referred to in the Cabinet Secretary's report for completeness.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 30-31W, on Adam Werritty, whether Lord Astor of Hever informed his Department of his trusteeship of Atlantic Bridge upon his appointment as a Defence Minister. [77274]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my noble Friend Lord Astor of Hever, resigned as a trustee of Atlantic Bridge before taking up his positions within the Ministry of Defence. There was therefore no requirement to discuss this upon his arrival.

Aircraft Carriers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the jetties at *(a)* Glen Mallen and *(b)* Crombie will be able to accept the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers for berthing. [78342]

Nick Harvey: While both jetties could potentially accept the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers for berthing, further infrastructure work would need to be carried out in order to make them fully operational and suitable for berthing the carriers.

It is planned that the QE class aircraft earners will be base-ported in Portsmouth.

Ammunition: Storage

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the total storage capacity for UK munitions is at *(a)* Crombie, *(b)* Beith and *(c)* Glen Douglas. [78339]

Nick Harvey: The storage capacity for the Defence Munitions sites at Crombie, Beith and Glen Douglas, expressed as a proportion of the total storage capacity of the Ministry of Defence's defence munitions sites is:

	Percentage
Crombie	2
Beith	7
Glen Douglas	11

This calculation excludes munitions deployed on operations or stored in facilities locally awaiting transit for training or onward movement to operations.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what NATO funding his Department receives for the munitions facilities at *(a)* Crombie, *(b)* Beith and *(c)* Glen Douglas. [78340]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence currently receives no funding from NATO for the munitions facilities at Crombie, Beith and Glen Douglas.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK is the sole user of the munition facilities at *(a)* Crombie, *(b)* Beith and *(c)* Glen Douglas. [78341]

Nick Harvey: The UK is the sole user of munitions facilities at Defence Munitions sites at Crombie, Beith and Glen Douglas. The jetty facilities at Crombie are available for use by visiting forces of NATO and other partner nations.

Armed Forces

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have extended their terms of service since 7 May 2010. [78540]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally in the format requested; however, data on the extension of service, where they are available as follows.

3,055 members of the RAF have extended their terms of service since 7 May 2010.

From 2010 to date, the naval service has offered extensions of service to 333 personnel. Data on whether these offers were accepted are not held centrally.

Data for the Army could be compiled only by examining personal records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Germany

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to have an estimate of the cost of the forthcoming return of British troops from Germany. [78042]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 2 November 2011]:* The costs involved in bringing troops back from Germany will not be known until the outcome of detailed planning currently being undertaken is completed. There will however be savings in the region of £250 million a year on allowances, education and medical support that currently exists for the Germany garrisons, once the move is completed.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were issued with notifications of termination of contract in each month since May 2010. [78598]

Mr Robathan: Service personnel do not have a contract of employment and may leave the armed forces for a wide variety of reasons. The number of personnel notified that they were included in tranche 1 of the armed forces redundancy scheme in September 2011 is given in the following table.

1 redundancy—September 2011

	Number
Naval service	1,020
Army	920
RAF	920

Note:
Figures have been rounded.

Armed Forces: Suicide

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to examine the underlying causes of recent trends in suicide rates among male army recruits aged 16 to 19 years; and what steps he is taking to address this. [79214]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The risk of suicide among male Army personnel in the under-20 age group has been reducing over the last 15 or so years. Between 2006-10 the risk of suicide among male Army personnel in this age group was 9% lower than the equivalent age group in the male UK population.

The Army monitor all self-harm incidents, including suicide, and has put in place a range of policies and welfare support to try and prevent these occurring. These include the Army Suicide Vulnerability Risk Management (SVRM) policy which is aimed at helping the chain of command to identify those who may be vulnerable and, once identified, how to manage their care with the appropriate welfare and medical services.

All staff at recruiting and training establishments are trained to recognise and identify vulnerable trainees who may be having problems. Commanding officers undertake risk assessments in accordance with the supervisory care directive which takes account of the particular factors of the environment, the age of the trainee population, and the type of training being undertaken. Welfare support is available to recruits 24 hours a day through unit welfare officers, padres and others such as the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. They also have access to confidential helplines and free counselling.

Defence Equipment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaydon of 21 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 1167W, on defence equipment, what his Department's policy is on using special couriers to transport military kit; and if he will make a statement. [77527]

Nick Harvey: The policy for the prioritisation of demands to transport defence equipment is contained in Joint Service Publication 886 (The Defence Logistics Support Chain Manual). The two highest priority demand codes require the 'fastest possible means' of delivery. This can be achieved by either Ministry of Defence transport or contract freight services, including special courier, depending on the circumstance.

Defence: Finance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of the defence budget was allocated to service pay in each of the last three years. [79114]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the amount spent by the Ministry of Defence on service pay for the last three financial years, and the percentage of total defence spending this equates to.

Financial year	*Service pay (£ billion)*	*Percentage of total defence spending*
2008-09	8.937	23
2009-10	9.481	24
2010-11	9.888	25

The figure for service pay includes salaries, allowances, pensions and national insurance contributions.

Cyber Attack

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions his Department was subject to cyber attacks since May 2010; and what form each such attack took. [78537]

Nick Harvey: Within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) there are technical, organisational, procedural and physical measures in place to protect against and mitigate the impact of cyber attacks. In 2010, the MOD detected and blocked more than 1,000 potentially serious attempts to infiltrate or disrupt our computer systems, however we do not comment on the specific detail of cyber security incidents or threat assessments.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [75704]

Mr Philip Hammond: Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on the Ministry of Defence website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/MinistersHospitalityReceived.htm

The information currently published covers May 2010 to March 2011 and is being updated on a quarterly basis in accordance with the Government's ongoing transparency programme.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the *(a)* cost, *(b)* date of commencement and *(c)* duration of each private finance initiative contract managed by his Department. [76539]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* Information on private finance initiative contracts that were signed prior to 16 March 2011 is available on the Treasury's website at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

In addition to listing the project name and responsible Department, the information available includes the capital value of the asset and associated unitary charge payments, the date the contract was signed, and the operational period of the contract.

This information is updated twice yearly.

Procurement

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department has awarded for off the shelf systems where no customisation was required since May 2010. [78275]

Nick Harvey: In the period from 1 May 2010 to 31 October 2011, the Ministry of Defence let over 8,000 new contracts. The details of these contracts are not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of Operation Kipion on the UK's international relations; and if he will make a statement. [77478]

Nick Harvey: Operation Kipion is the UK's overarching operation for Defence presence and contribution to security in the middle and near east. It covers a wide range, but not all, of our operational activity in the region, in support of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague's), Gulf Initiative.

Through our high-level engagements and through anecdotal reporting from our security co-operation activities it is our strong belief that the activities, bounded within the operation, have had a positive effect on the way in which the UK is perceived in the region. Continuing to enhance our defence links is a key part of our ongoing commitment to the region.

We are now working more closely with our international partners on maritime security operations including combating terrorism, piracy, and weapons proliferation. We expect that the strength of these relations will continue to increase as the operation matures.

Libya: Armed Conflict

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of flying hours for Operation Ellamy were spent in transit to the operational area for *(a)* Tornado and *(b)* Typhoon. [77704]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* The vast majority of UK Tornado and Typhoon aircraft missions flown in support of Operation Ellamy were from Gioia Del Colle, Italy, which is in the UK joint operational area. In those cases all flying hours were within the operational area.

Some UK Tornado missions were flown from RAF Marham in the UK. However, while the Ministry of Defence has details of the proportion of time spent in transit for these sorties, this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours of air tanker support were required to enable Tornado sorties flown from the UK as part of Operation Ellamy. [77705]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* 170 hours of air tanker support using a combination of VC10 and Tristar aircraft were required to enable the small number of Tornado sorties flown from the UK as part of Operation Ellamy.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* sorties and *(b)* combat sorties the Royal Air Force participated in as part of Operation Ellamy. [78268]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* From the start of Operation Ellamy until 27 October 2011, the Royal Air Force conducted approximately 2,990 sorties, of which 2,060 were combat sorties. The Army and Royal Navy also conducted both combat and other air sorties during the operation.

Military Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 602W, on military aircraft, whether he has considered mothballing the Sentinel R1 following its withdrawal from service; and if he will make a statement. [78272]

Nick Harvey: As announced in the strategic defence and security review, our current plan is to withdraw the Sentinel system from service when it is no longer required to support operations in Afghanistan.

Disposal plans for the Sentinel R1 remain immature, and no options have been ruled out.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 993W, on RAF Leuchars, if he will place in the Library a copy of the sustainability appraisal undertaken in April 2011. [77315]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* A copy of the sustainability appraisal for RAF Leuchars will be placed in the Library of the House.

As part of the basing review process further sustainability and other environmental studies will be undertaken.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the future of the *(a)* 58 RAF Regiment, *(b)* 612 Regiment, *(c)* 71 Engineer Regiment, *(d)* HQ Dundee and Central Scotland Wing Air Training Corps, *(e)* East of Scotland University Air Squadron, *(f)* Mountain Rescue Team, *(g)* No. 2 RAF Police Wing and *(h)* 6 Force Protection Wing currently based at RAF Leuchars; and if he will make a statement. [78041]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 2 November 2011]:* Plans for the transfer of RAF Leuchars to the Army are at an early stage. Therefore, at this point, I am unable to provide more detailed information on the future location of those units currently based at RAF Leuchars.

RAF Menwith Hill

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of US personnel stationed at Menwith Hill. [77621]

Nick Harvey: There are 1,200 US personnel stationed at RAF Menwith Hill. This figure is comprised of the following groups:

US military: 450

US civilians: 400

US contractors: 350.

Rescue Services: Helicopters

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last held discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on potential long-term procurement options for search and rescue helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [77826]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* Discussions between the Department for Transport and the Ministry of Defence are ongoing regarding a range of potential options to meet future requirements for helicopter search and rescue in the UK. I understand that the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), intends to make a statement on the matter before the end of the year.

Submarines: Decommissioning

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's consultation on submarine dismantling, if he will estimate the cost of *(a)* towing a submarine, *(b)* towing a barge with a submarine on it and *(c)* using a heavy lift ship to transport a submarine between Rosyth and Devonport. [78246]

Nick Harvey: The information requested on estimated costs relates to the development and formulation of Government policy, and its disclosure would be likely to prejudice commercial interests.

Trident

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which areas his Department has assessed as having the highest risk of cost overrun within the programme to replace Trident nuclear submarines. [77651]

Mr Philip Hammond: The project management of the successor submarine programme includes the use of formal, best practice, recognised risk management techniques. This is based upon a joint risk management approach, which is being overseen by a joint Ministry of Defence (MOD)/industry integrated programme management team.

The aim of this approach is to ensure that risks and opportunities are identified and assessed, and that appropriate steps are taken to reduce risk to an acceptable level. There are regular reviews to confirm risks are being managed effectively.

Assurance that risk has been reduced to an acceptable level, and that individual risks have been reflected in the cost modelling, will be important elements of the main gate approval process in 2016. These will be subject to independent scrutiny from within the MOD and from Her Majesty's Treasury.

I am withholding further details as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests and impact on the formulation or development of Government policy.

HEALTH

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78851]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of all ministerial meetings with external parties are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. The latest data up to the end of March 2011 can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartment Leaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

No special advisers have met with Adam Werritty. Information on whether officials have met with Adam Werritty could be provided only at disproportionate cost but Ministers are aware of no such meetings.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the number of people who exceed the Government's guidelines for weekly alcohol consumption. [78596]

Anne Milton: The Department will be bringing together the Government's approach in an alcohol strategy to be published in the near future. The Change4life campaign will also be incorporating messages of the health risks from alcohol consumption early next year.

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in each age group who exceed the Government's guidelines for weekly alcohol consumption. [78597]

Mr Simon Burns: Current Government recommendations are that adult men should not regularly drink more than three to four units of alcohol a day and adult women should not regularly drink more than two to three units a day.

Information from surveys on the number of units drunk on a typical day in the previous year along with frequency of consumption is used to calculate average weekly consumption. Table 2.4 of the 'Statistics on Alcohol: England 2011' provides information on the percentages of the population by gender and age group who exceed the weekly equivalent of the guidelines at 21 units for men and 14 units for women.

The 'Statistics on Alcohol: England 2011' report and tables have been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has sought legal advice on the compatibility of the introduction of a minimum price for alcohol with European law. [78595]

Anne Milton: The Home Office has lead responsibility for alcohol pricing policy and has sought and received such legal advice on behalf of the Government.

Arthritis

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to support people with mobility problems caused by arthritis. [78995]

Paul Burstow: Guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence outlines the. Care which people with rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis can expect to receive. This includes appropriate medication to relieve symptoms and prevent further disease progression and access as needed to surgery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, and support for self care.

For people with mobility problems there have been a number of recent initiatives to help improve access to physiotherapy, occupational therapy and other allied health professional services, including pilots of self-referral; projects to demonstrate the potential benefits from service redesign; and the development of systematic collection of information on referral to treatment waiting times.

A new Community Equipment Services model makes it easier for people to obtain simple items of equipment or home adaptations. For those who need wheelchairs, we have recently carried out a review led by two regional pilot sites and a report is now being prepared to provide advice for other areas wishing to improve their services. Finally, our policies on Any Qualified Provider and on personal health and social care budgets will in future enable people with continuing healthcare needs, including people with arthritis, greater control and choice over the services they receive.

Back Pain

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to publish a quality standard on lower back pain. [76923]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) jointly with the National Quality Board recently ran an engagement exercise on the library of NICE Quality Standard NHS health care topics. As part of this exercise a proposed library of topics was published for comment. Within this proposed library of topics 'Low Back Pain' was included. The engagement exercise closed on 14 October 2011. NICE are currently analysing the responses received and will be able to provide more information in due course. Further information on the engagement exercise can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/NQBEngagement.jsp

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on the provision of digital mammography in NHS screening services. [78687]

Paul Burstow: Local national health service breast cancer screening programmes in England are replacing their current analogue (film) systems with digital systems (direct digital mammography—DDM). As at October 2011, 67 (83.7%) of the 80 local programmes had at least one DDM X-ray set, and 33 (41%) were fully digital. Local programmes have been advised to implement direct digital as quickly as possible as the independent Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening (has said that running both film and digital systems together is inefficient. 13 programmes (16%) are still to implement digital mammography.

Carers: Employment

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial support and practical assistance the Government provides to carers who are seeking work following the death of the person being cared for. [77806]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

A person who was entitled to carer's allowance immediately before the death of the person cared for continues to be entitled to it for up to eight weeks afterwards.

Depending on their personal circumstances, the ex-carer may claim or continue to claim other benefits such as jobseeker's allowance if they are actively seeking and available for work; employment and support allowance if they have a disability or incapacity which limits their capability for work; or, in other circumstances, income support. These benefits include a carer premium for people who are entitled to carer's allowance.

Regardless of which benefit carers or ex-carers claim, Jobcentre Plus provides personalised and flexible practical assistance for those seeking work, either directly or through Work Programme providers.

The level of support offered by Jobcentre Plus; how quickly a person is referred to the Work Programme; and whether engagement is voluntary or mandatory depends on which benefit is being claimed. So for example an ex-carer claiming jobseeker's allowance could volunteer to enter the Work Programme three months into their claim.

Local Jobcentre Plus offices are empowered to decide when and how to support customers, tailoring that support to their individual need, although support may be subject to mandatory participation depending on the benefit being claimed. Jobcentre Plus District Managers and advisers have access to a comprehensive flexible menu of options to enable them to make the cost effective choices and provide the right support to individuals.

The support available directly through Jobcentre Plus may include:

mandatory adviser interviews and jobsearch reviews

flexible interviews, the frequency and duration of which are decided by a personal adviser

work preparation, including help with CV writing or interview skills

referral to approved training

work trials, work experience, access to help if considering self-employment and work clubs

access to funds to help with the costs of training and returning to work

help to calculate whether the person would be better off in work when considering a job, and

advice about in-work benefits and adviser support during the early weeks in work.

When determining the level of support ex-carers receive, they are treated as though they were still carers for eight weeks following the end of their caring responsibilities. Once a carer or ex-carer has started receiving this support, they can continue accessing it until they start full time work or are mandated to participate in the Work Programme.

Jobcentre Plus works in partnership in local communities with service providers, Local authorities, the NHS, voluntary and community sector and employers to find ways to support carers and ex-carers back to work.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued; [78921]

(2) in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010; [78922]

(3) which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78923]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received and answered by the Department in each month since May.2010 to September 2011 is contained in the following table:

Month and year	*Number of FOI cases received*	*Number of FOI cases answered on time (or within permitted extension)*
May 2010	129	129
June 2010	170	170
July 2010	170	170
August 2010	180	180
September 2010	170	170
October 2010	160	160
November 2010	199	199
December 2010	166	166
January 2011	240	240
February 2011	168	168
March 2011	208	208
April 2011	132	131
May 2011	125	125
June 2011	153	153
July 2011	167	167
August 2011	151	151
September 2011	154	154

The further information requested about partial and full disclosure and timeliness is not routinely collected on a monthly basis and to provide this would incur disproportionate cost.

However, this information is collected quarterly and is published by the Ministry of Justice at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

The number of responses to FOI requests received by the Department using certain exemptions since January 2010 is contained in the following table:

Reasons for withholding information under FOI from January 2010 - June 2011

	Number
Commercial interests_(s43)	64
Information not held	773
Cost limits (s12)	224
Vexatious and repeat requests (s14)	9

It is the responsibility of senior departmental officials within relevant policy teams to determine whether exemptions under the FOI Act should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

However, section 36 of the FOI Act sets out an exemption from a 'right to know' if the disclosure of information, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. In England, the FOI Act defines a qualified person as any Minister of the Crown for information that is held by a Government Department.

In general, clearance for the use of section-36 is sought from the Minister responsible for departmental management, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Earl Howe.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2011, on lost computers and mobile telephones, how many losses or thefts of *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment there have been since May 2010. [79367]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table gives details of departmental losses and thefts from May 2010 to 30 September 2011.

Departmental losses and thefts 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2011

	Number
Computers	14
Mobile telephones	8
BlackBerries	55
Other IT equipment	19
Total	96

NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CFH) is part of the Department's Informatics Directorate. However, there are a number of fundamental differences between the Department and NHS CFH including suppliers and equipment used. It is therefore deemed appropriate to display the figures for NHS CFH losses and thefts separately to the rest of the Department.

NHS CFH losses and thefts 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2011

	Number
Computers	13
Mobile telephones (includes all mobile devices)	32
BlackBerries	0
Other IT equipment	9
Total	54

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the ministerial diary of the Minister of State for Social Care for October to December 2010. [78767]

Paul Burstow: Details of all ministerial meetings with external parties are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. The latest data up to the end of March 2011 can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

Disability: Young People

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will create a clinical network for children with defined responsibility for developing care pathways for *(a)* disabled children and young people (i) with complex needs and (ii) requiring palliative care and *(b)* other disabled children and young people. [79617]

Paul Burstow: Clinical networks will support the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups to design pathways of care and shape services, based on a wide-range of multi-disciplinary input. Proposals for the role of clinical networks will be developed after the completion of a review of clinical networks which is currently engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to assess how the functions and range of networks can most effectively support commissioners.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under his proposed reforms which part of the NHS will be responsible for *(a)* designing care pathways and *(b)* shaping local services for (i) disabled children and young people (A) with complex needs and (B) requiring palliative care and (ii) other disabled children and young people. [79618]

Paul Burstow: We are determined to embed children's health explicitly throughout the new system.

Clinical commissioning groups will be responsible for commissioning services for children and young people with a disability or complex needs. They will work in partnership with the health and well-being boards that will be a forum for local commissioners across the national health service, local government; elected representatives, and representatives of HealthWatch to agree how to improve the health and well-being of the people in their area including children and young people. The NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB) will have responsibility for the direct commissioning of a number of services from April 2013. Included within those services will be services for people with rare conditions which are currently commissioned at both a national and regional level as described in the Specialised National Definitions Set.

When commissioning children's services, both the NHSCB and clinical commissioning groups will also seek advice from paediatricians, nurses and other clinical professionals with expertise across a range of areas.

There will be senior clinical leadership for children's services within the NHS Commissioning Board, providing advice and support to commissioners.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what function the NHS Commissioning Board will have in respect of national delivery of health services for *(a)* disabled children and young people (i) with complex needs and (ii) requiring palliative care and *(b)* other disabled children and young people. [79619]

Paul Burstow: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board will have a duty to conduct a performance assessment of each clinical commissioning group in respect of each financial year.

When conducting a performance assessment, the board has a duty to consult each relevant health and well-being board as to its views on the clinical commissioning group's contribution to the delivery of any joint health and well-being strategy. Health and well-being boards will include a director of children's services.

The board will have a duty to have regard to jointly prepared local joint strategic needs assessment (JSNAs) and the joint health and well-being strategy (JHWSs) in its own direct commissioning.

The board will have responsibility for the direct commissioning of a number of services from April 2013, including those services for people with rare conditions, which are currently commissioned at both a national and regional level as described in the Specialised National Definitions set.

There will be senior clinical leadership for children's health services within the NHS Commissioning board providing advice and support to commissioners.

Fats: Health Hazards

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the quantity of trans fats consumed in the UK; and what steps the Government is taking to reduce such consumption. [78993]

Anne Milton: The Department monitors the presence of trans fats in the United Kingdom diet through a rolling programme, the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS). Estimated mean intakes of trans fat for all age groups from 2008-09 to 2009-10 of the NDNS were 0.7-0.9% of food energy (calorie intake), well within public health recommendation of no more than 2% of food energy.

As part of the Public Health Responsibility Deal, the Department is working in partnership with UK food businesses to remove artificial trans fatty acids (TFA), from the few foods that still contain them.

Businesses are pledging to remove artificial TFA from products by the end of 2011. They will achieve this by removing partially hydrogenated vegetable oils and limiting the levels of artificial TFA in oils and fats used as ingredients or in preparing foods (eg frying oils) to a maximum of 2%.

This voluntary action will help to ensure that intakes of trans fats remain low, and give consumers confidence that artificial trans fats will not be added to foods in the future.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average total payment per GP made to general practices in England was in the last year for which figures are available. [79240]

Mr Simon Burns: The total payment per general practitioner made to all general practices in England in 2010-11 is £237,738, based on the four combined contracting routes for: general medical services, personal medical services, alternative provider medical services and primary care trust medical services.

Health Inequality

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to placing a statutory duty on local authorities to reduce health inequalities. [78580]

Mr Simon Burns: Local authorities are independent democratic bodies. Nationally, we will be able to promote a focus on tackling health inequalities through such non-legislative means as the Public Health Outcomes Framework. We believe such non-legislative approaches are at least as effective as a legal duty on local authorities in the Health and Social Care Bill.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the ability of public health policy to reduce healthcare costs for the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [78583]

Anne Milton: The ongoing public health reforms are part of a long term strategy designed to produce substantial savings for the national health service in the future.

We provided some figures to demonstrate the potential savings that would arise from the reforms in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England". We stated that:

> "Changing adult behaviours could also reduce premature death, illness and costs to society, avoiding a substantial proportion of cancers, vascular dementias and over 30% of circulatory diseases; saving the NHS the £2.7 billion cost of alcohol abuse; and saving society the £13.9 billion a year spent on tackling drug-fuelled crime."

A copy of the White Paper has previously been placed in the Library.

Through investing in public health and spending effectively on prevention, we aim to release efficiency savings which can then be used elsewhere in the NHS.

Health Professions

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to put in place to ensure that all statutorily regulated health professionals, including osteopaths, will be able to input into the design of relevant patient pathways. [76922]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government want the full range of health and care professionals to be involved in the new commissioning arrangements, supporting the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups to design pathways of care and shape services. Both the board and clinical commissioning groups will have a statutory duty to secure professional advice from persons who taken together have a range of professional expertise.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for issuing guidance to commissioning groups on their duty to obtain appropriate professional advice.

Health Protection Agency

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the quality of accountability through the regional structures of the Health Protection Agency; and if he will make a statement. [78581]

Anne Milton: The quality of accountability in the regional structures of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is assessed as part of the formal governance structures set out in the HPA management statement. This process includes the Department undertaking regular accountability reviews of the HPA through quarterly performance reports and an annual accountability review. Each region contributes to this process by reporting on progress against objectives set out in the agreed HPA business plan.

Hepatitis

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what analysis his Department has undertaken on any relationship between hepatitis C infection and health and social inequalities. [78542]

Anne Milton: Evidence indicates that hepatitis C in this country affects populations who may experience inequalities, with people who inject drugs at greatest risk of acquiring infection. Studies also suggest that there may be a relatively high prevalence of hepatitis C and associated liver disease in certain minority ethnic populations.

In response to this evidence, improvements in national surveillance have been made to monitor HCV infection and diagnostic testing in the general population as well as in particular risk groups, including people who inject drugs, offenders, minority ethnic populations and men who have sex with men. The findings of this surveillance are reported annually in the Health Protection Agency's "Hepatitis C in the UK" report.

The Heath Protection Agency's annual reports on hepatitis C provide further details of hepatitis C in population risk groups, a copy of the most recent report "Hepatitis C in the UK, 2011" has been placed in the Library.

HIV Infection

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the current level of Government funding for HIV education and prevention in England. [78715]

Mr Simon Burns: This year, the Department has invested £2.9 million in a national programme of HIV prevention for men who have sex with men and African communities, the groups most at risk of HIV in the United Kingdom. Prevention will be a key part of the Government's new Sexual Health Policy Framework.

The Department is currently considering how national HIV prevention programmes might be taken forward from 2012-13 when the current programmes end. At a local level, it is for local primary care trusts, and from 2013 local authorities, to decide their level of investment in HIV prevention, taking into account HIV prevalence and their wider public health needs.

HIV Infection: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the number of cases of HIV in London. [78716]

Mr Simon Burns: Targeted HIV prevention programmes for those groups at increased risk of HIV continue to play an important role in reducing the number of cases of HIV both in London and on a national level. The Department continues to fund the Terence Higgins Trust and the African Health Policy Network for prevention work both in London and nationally.

At a local level, it is for local primary care trusts, and from 2013 local authorities, to decide their level of investment in HIV prevention, taking into account HIV prevalence and their wider public health needs.

Hospital Beds

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* acute and *(b)* non-acute patients aged 18 years and over were occupying a hospital bed but eligible for discharge by NHS commissioner area in each quarter in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011 to date; [78574]

(2) how *(a)* acute and *(b)* non-acute patients aged 18 years and over were occupying a hospital bed but eligible for discharge by local authority area in each month in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011 to date. [78575]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect data in each quarter or month but we have a snapshot figure that represents an average of the number of patients delayed per day during that period. This information has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Eggs

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has issued guidelines to hospitals on their buying criteria to ensure eggs produced in conventional cages should not be used in any form. [78569]

Mr Simon Burns: We encourage national health service organisations to adopt the Government Buying Standards (GBS) for food, where possible, through the NHS operating framework for 2011-12 published in December 2010. Mandatory GBS criteria currently bans the use of fresh (in-shell) eggs from conventional cage systems. If a cage system is used it should be enriched cages. In light of the forthcoming European Union ban on conventional cages, we intend to extend this mandatory criteria to cover all liquid and powdered egg products, which are currently in voluntary best practice criteria.

This Government believe that their role is to set a credible and workable example for the wider public sector to follow, and it is this that the GBS is designed to deliver. All public bodies have a different set of requirements and the local people most closely connected with them, staff, patients, governors, will have different priorities, making them best placed to decide how to achieve the objectives we are aiming for.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many urgent NHS operations were cancelled in each month of *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011 to date. [78573]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of urgent cancellations in each month requested is shown in the following table:

Urgent cancellations

	Month	*Number*
2009-10	April	166
	May	195
	June	173
	July	234
	August	144
	September	115
	October	239
	November	283

Urgent cancellations

	Month	*Number*
	December	215
	January	309
	February	264
	March	197
2010-11	April	204
	May	178
	June	165
	July	240
	August	172
	September	185
	October	173
	November	211
	December	322
	January	222
	February	248
	March	237
2011-12	April	219
	May	205
	June	271
	July	203
	August	254
	September	310

Note:
Prior to August 2010, these figures were collected weekly, and therefore the monthly figures shown are an aggregate of either four or five weeks as opposed to a calendar month.
Source:
Weekly and monthly sitreps.

Learning Disability

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with a learning disability in England who are being supported *(a)* exclusively or *(b)* predominantly through a health budget; and if he will make a statement. [79207]

Paul Burstow: Personal health budgets are currently being piloted across England. Over 2,700 people have been recruited into an independent evaluation programme. Around half of them will have personal health budgets; the remainder are in a control group. The evaluation does not include a specific cohort of people with learning disabilities. So, although it is likely that many people with learning disabilities are involved in the pilot, we do not yet know how many, or to what extent their needs are being supported through a personal health budget.

However, the evaluation team will gather information and report on the conditions that people have, including learning disabilities. The final evaluation report is due in October 2012.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of adults with a learning disability in England; what steps he is taking to ensure there is sufficient funding for people who need care and support due to learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [79209]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect information on estimates of the total number of adults with learning disabilities. However, the Institute of Health Research at Lancaster University estimated that in 2004 there were 800,000 adults (aged 20+) with learning, disabilities, which they modelled would increase to 870,000 in 2011.

The number of adults with learning disabilities receiving social care services as of 31 March 2010 was 102,500. This figure consists of 95,500 people aged 18 to 64 and 7,000 aged 65+.

In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the spending review allocated an additional £7.2 billion over four years to 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care.

It is up to local authorities to choose how best to use their available funding. However, we think that the extra investment we have set out, combined with a rigorous focus on efficiency, will mean that there is funding available to protect people's access to care during the spending review period, including those with learning disabilities.

Lighting: Health Hazards

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* assessment he has made of and *(b)* representations he has received on the recent Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks review of the ability of EU member states to manufacture incandescent bulbs available where there are medical grounds; and if he will make a statement. [R] [79447]

Anne Milton: The European Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) released a preliminary Opinion on the health effects of artificial light on 18 July 2011. SCENIHR have carried out a public consultation and scientific hearing on this opinion and we understand that SCENIHR will publish a final opinion before the end of 2011.

The Government have asked the European Commission to take the SCENIHR review and recommendations into account.

The Department is continuing to work with patient groups, clinicians and the lighting industry to keep the health issues under review.

Medical Treatments: VAT

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the inability of NHS trusts to recover VAT on medical treatments compared to the ability of dispensing pharmacists to do so; and what representations he has received from patients and pharmacists on collection of prescriptions from their local pharmacists which are taken into hospital to be administered. [78831]

Mr Simon Burns: Value-added tax (VAT) is a matter for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Since 1 May 2010, the Department has received fewer than 10 written representations on the inability of national health service trusts to recover VAT on medical treatments compared to the ability of dispensing pharmacists to do so; and fewer than five written representations from patients and pharmacists on the collection of prescribed medicines from their local pharmacies which are then taken into hospital to be administered.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the role of osteopathy in reducing workplace sickness absence due to musculoskeletal disorders. [76921]

Anne Milton: The Department has not made an assessment of the specific effects of complementary medicines, such as osteopathy, in reducing workplace sickness absence. However, improving health in the workplace is a key part of public health policy through both the 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People' White Paper and the Public Health Responsibility Deal.

NHS: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the participation rate was for the NHS pension schemes in each pay band in each year from 2006 to 2010. [79528]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

However, using data from the NHS Electronic Staff Record (ESR) Data Warehouse it is possible to estimate pension membership rates for Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) staff for the end of the period of interest:

	Estimated pension membership rate (headcount)	
	September 2009 (%)	*September 2010 (%)*
Non-Medical		
AfC Band 1	64	64
AfC Band 2	78	77
AfC Band 3	82	82
AfC Band 4	86	85
AfC Band 5	87	87
AfC Band 6	91	91
AfC Band 7	95	94
AfC Band 8a	96	96
AfC Band 8b	97	96
AfC Band 8c	97	97
AfC Band 8d	98	98
AfC Band 9	98	97
Other	97	96
Medical		
Consultants	97	96
Training Grades	95	95
Other Medical	90	90
All HCHS	87	87

Notes:

1. The ESR Data Warehouse contains monthly snapshots of the live ESR system, which is a payroll and human resources system containing staff records for national health service employed staff in England. It contains records on all NHS staff except for those in the following groups:
general practitioners (GPs), GP practice staff and other primary care providers e.g. dentists;
two foundation trusts (Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Chesterfield
Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust); and
those staff groups affected by Transforming Community Services where the service is now provided by a non-NHS organisation.

2. Pension membership rates are estimated by considering the proportion of ESR's, across staff groups, with recorded employer pension contributions. Aggregate estimates are then produced using published NHS Information Centre work force census data collected annually each September. Data cleaning processes are also applied to the ESR extracts before use.

3. For non-medical staff, estimates are generated by Agenda for Change (AfC) pay band. Medical staff are not employed on AfC terms so estimates are provided by broad staff groups.

NHS: Private Sector

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the number of NHS patients who will seek private treatment of the proposals contained in the Health and Social Care Bill; [79223]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of non-European Economic Area overseas private patients that would be treated in NHS hospitals as a result of his proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill. [78949]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's assessment to date of the proposal to remove the private patient income cap for foundation trusts is contained in the Government's Command Paper, "Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps", and the Impact Assessments so far published for the Health and Social Care Bill 2011.

Older People: Carers

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he allocated to social care for the elderly in the latest period for which figures are available. [79412]

Paul Burstow: Allocating funding for adult social care is the responsibility of local authorities, who receive funding from central Government through the local government formula grant and raise money locally through council tax.

The latest local authority budget data for 2011-12 show that local authorities have budgeted £7.0 billion towards social care for those over 65. We also estimate that around £300 million has been transferred to local authorities for older people's services from primary care trusts this year, as part of the additional support for social care provided through the health system. Budgeted expenditure for older people will therefore be around £7.3 billion this year.

Primary Care Trusts: Per Capita Costs

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much Mid Essex Primary Care Trust received per capita in the latest period for which figures are available; [79233]

(2) what the average level of per capita funding for primary care trusts in England was in the latest period for which figures are available; [79234]

(3) which 10 primary care trusts received the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest level of per capita funding in the latest period for which figures are available. [79235]

Mr Simon Burns: Mid Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) received funding of £1,399 per capita in the 2011-12 PCT revenue allocations compared to the national average of £1,693.

The 10 PCTs with the highest and lowest per capita funding for 2011-12 are shown in the following table.

2011-12 total revenue allocations per head[1]

	£
Highest	
Islington PCT	2,350
Newham PCT	2,320
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	2,275
Knowsley PCX	2,246
Liverpool PCT	2,200
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	2,180
Blackpool PCT	2,128
Tower Hamlets PCT	2,116
Brent Teaching PCT	2,101
Lambeth PCT	2,074
Lowest	
Berkshire West PCT	1,367
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,370
Mid Essex PCT	1,399
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,403
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,407
Bedfordshire PCT	1,431
Oxfordshire PCT	1,439
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,446
Berkshire East PCT	1,451
Kingston PCT	1,458
England average	1,693

[1] In December 2010 PCTs were informed of their total 2011-12 revenue allocations which include:
2011-12 recurrent revenue allocations;
non-recurrent allocations for primary dental services, pharmaceutical services and general ophthalmic services; and
support for joint working between health and social care.

These allocations were announced separately in 2010-11.

Public Health England

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure Public Health England is operationally independent of Government. [78584]

Anne Milton: Public Health England will be established as an Executive Agency of the Department of Health on 1 April 2013, and will work in an open and transparent way. It will be managed by a chief executive who will be solely responsible for the day-to-day operation of the agency. Public Health England will receive its own budget to deliver its services. It will have scientific committees that will provide rigorous and impartial advice on public health issues. This operational freedom will be supported by a framework agreement between the Department and Public Health England which will set out the roles and responsibilities of both organisations.

Skin Cancer

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many single technology appraisals have been published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for *(a)* malignant melanoma and *(b)* each other cancer disease area since 1 March 2010; [79464]

(2) how many treatments for people with advanced melanoma have been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence since 1 March 2010. [79465]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not published any final technology appraisal guidance on treatments for malignant melanoma or advanced malignant melanoma. NICE is undertaking three appraisals of drugs for the treatment of this condition.

Since 1 March 2010, NICE has published 21 single technology appraisals on treatments for cancer. This includes three appraisals that were terminated because NICE did not receive an evidence submission from the manufacturer or sponsor of the technology.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the evidential basis used by his Department to set £23,250 as the proposed means-tested threshold for social care costs. [78717]

Paul Burstow: With effect from 1 April 1993, the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992 set the upper capital limit at £16,000. This was based on the figure used in the financial assessment for income support. Due to the passage of time, it is not possible to establish the reasons that the level set was felt to be appropriate at the time. Contemporary papers and reports are not available.

Since 1993, the upper capital limit, for residential charging, has been periodically uprated. The last uprating, to £23,250, was in 2010.

Speech and Language Disorders: Health Services

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partially state funded for speech and language therapy in 2010; and what estimate he has made of funding that will be provided by his Department in each such category in the remainder of the Comprehensive Spending Review; [79187]

(2) which primary care trusts have announced funding reductions for speech and language therapy during the Comprehensive Spending Review period; and what the level was of each such funding reduction; [79188]

(3) what the total cost to the public was of funding speech and language therapy in 2010; and what he estimates the cost will be in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [79189]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not collected centrally. Funding for speech and language therapy is provided within the national health service budget and decided by local NHS organisations. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of speech and language therapy.

St Helens and Whiston NHS Hospital Trust

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to make his decision on the funding gap at St Helens and Whiston NHS Hospital Trust. [78950]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently examining the private finance initiative issue in a small number of trusts where it cannot be resolved locally. As part of the potential provision of financial support to specific national health service trusts going forward to support them achieve foundation trust status, this is being considered. The framework and process have not been finalised. However, in relation to any support, which might be provided to trusts, the Department has outlined four key tests that they would have to meet:

> the problems they face must be exceptional and beyond those faced by other organisations;
>
> they must show that the problems are historic and that they have a clear plan to manage their resources in the future;
>
> they must show that they are delivering high levels of annual productivity savings; and
>
> they must deliver clinically viable, high quality services, including low waiting times and other performance measures.

Any specific decisions in relation to St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will be determined following the finalisation of the analysis and this framework.

JUSTICE

Young Offenders: Drugs and Alcohol

18. **Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people entering young offender institutions who have drug and alcohol problems. [78971]

Mr Blunt: No estimate has been made because this information is not collected centrally. From April 2012, the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) is being introduced into prisons and young offenders institutions in England. NDTMS will allow for accurate data to be collected from substance misuse services.

Prison Work

20. **Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to promote work in prisons. [78973]

Mr Blunt: We have made clear our intention to make prisons places of work and industry. We are already making good progress towards longer prisoner working weeks at a number of prisons. We have also set up a Business Advisory Group to both advise and promote the outcomes we are seeking.

These plans will require new businesses in prisons to cover their costs and the enhanced costs of undertaking work in prisons as well as providing a return for victims of crime and a contribution towards the rehabilitation of the prisoners engaged in this new commercially positive work.

Anti-corruption

21. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last met the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to discuss corruption in sport as part of his role as the UK's international anti-corruption champion. [78974]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues as part of my international anti-corruption champion role, although I have not met the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the right hon. Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), to discuss this particular matter. The UK is supporting the EU's efforts to reduce corruption in sport and I am monitoring the progress of this work.

Personal Injury Law

22. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reform the use of referral fees by personal injury lawyers. [78975]

Mr Djanogly: In my written ministerial statement of 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 32WS, I informed the House of the Government's decision to ban the payment and receipt of referral fees in personal injury cases. This ban is being taken forward through provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

Conditional Fee Arrangements

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people who used conditional fee agreements in *(a)* privacy and *(b)* libel cases in 2010. [78958]

Mr Djanogly: I understand that 158 defamation proceedings were commenced in the Queen's Bench Division in 2010, although we do not have data on how these cases were funded. Data provided to Lord Justice Jackson suggested that only 17.5% of a similar number of such cases in 2008 were funded by way of conditional fee agreement.

Census: Guernsey

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what discussions his Department and the Bailiwick of Guernsey had on the decision not to organise a census of population in Guernsey in 2011; [78707]

(2) for what reason the Bailiwick of Guernsey has not organised a census in 2011. [78708]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My Department has not had any discussions with the States of Guernsey on their decision not to hold a census of Guernsey's population in 2011.

As an internally self-governing dependency of the Crown, this is entirely a matter for the island authorities. However, I can inform the right hon. Member that the States of Guernsey has migrated to an electronic collation of social and economic data traditionally compiled by paper census. It was considered that the merits of moving to such a system were compelling, following examples set by countries such as Finland.

Alderney is working with Guernsey towards adopting a similar system and Sark compiles its own population figures.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79079]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice funds a large number of groups, including registered charities, voluntary and community groups. It would incur disproportionate costs to research each organisation, check its charitable status and disclose what grants were given.

Grants are given to organisations that provide a wide range of services, such as the provision of support for victims of crime, mediation services, work to reduce crime and debt advice.

Civil Disorder

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of people convicted following the public disorder of August 2011 were children; and what proportion had parents subject to parenting orders. [79296]

Mr Blunt: The latest available published data, as of 12 October 2011, on offenders found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6 and 9 August 2011, show that 185 offenders (27%) were aged between 10 and 17 years.

In order to allow timely reporting of statistics on offenders proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences resulting from the 6-9 August public disorder, a dataset has been compiled from manual returns from the courts. The available information does not include whether a parent of an offender found guilty of an offence related to the public disorder was subject to a parenting order.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the level of civil litigation. [78967]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are implementing fundamental reform of civil litigation funding and costs. We are also banning referral fees in personal injury cases. The Government believe that together these changes will deter unnecessary and avoidable claims from progressing to court.

Coroners

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with faith groups on his proposals for the future of the Office of Chief Coroner. [78965]

Mr Djanogly: I have not had any formal discussions with faith groups on this matter, however the Ministry of Justice has just consulted on the proposals for the future of the office of the chief coroner as part of a wider consultation on the Public Bodies Bill reforms and received responses from faith groups. Faith groups were also consulted on the new charter for the coroner service, and we have corresponded with leaders of faith groups on specific coroner issues such as less invasive post-mortem examinations.

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77365]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since May 2010, the Department has bought the following assets with a value of £250,000 or more:

Name of the asset	*Value (£ million)*	*Purpose*
Secure email—IDS	0.3	Email upgrade
Secure email —LDAP	0.4	Email upgrade
Law courts	1.4	Site for the new Aberystwyth law courts
ISIS prison	136.6	Provision of new prison capacity

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78912]

Mr Djanogly: To answer this question in full, a manual search of every request received and answered by the Ministry of Justice since May 2010 would be required, as we do not have the means to extract the information electronically. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Relevant information readily available is, however, provided as follows. The Ministry of Justice publishes on its website quarterly and annual statistics on freedom of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies, and it is from these publications that the following statistics are taken. The available statistics cover the period April 2010 to June 2011. Under the Official Statistics Code of Practice, we cannot release statistics for a time period prior to their appearance in a regular statistical report. Statistics for the remainder of 2011 will be collated and published in due course.

Between April 2010 and June 2011 the Ministry of Justice provided the full information requested 844 times. This statistic, and the quarterly breakdown as follows, includes only first requests, it does not include information provided at internal review or subsequent appeal stages available under the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act'). Full disclosure by quarter:

Quarter	*Full disclosure*
April-June 2010	152
July-September 2010	190
October-December 2010	164
January-March 2011	167
April-June 2011	171

Between April 2010 and June 2011 the Ministry of Justice partially withheld information in 344 first response requests, and by quarter:

Quarter	*Partial disclosure*
April-June 2010	57
July-September 2010	59
October-December 2010	99
January-March 2011	68
April-June2011	61

Between April 2010 and June 2011 the Ministry of Justice withheld the whole response of information 1477 times, and by quarter:

Quarter	*Withheld*
April-June 2010	267
July-September 2010	309
October-December 2010	247
January-March 2011	339
April-June 2011	315

The following number of substantive responses have been issued by the Ministry of Justice since April 2010. In this case, 'substantive' should be understood as any answer that is not a holding response. The figures therefore include answers where the Ministry of Justice has: confirmed it does not hold the information; explained that providing the information would exceed the cost limit provided for in the Act; declined to answer under section 14 of the Act (vexatious or repeated requests); provided all the information requested; and provided some of the information requested.

Quarter	*Substantive response*
April-June 2010	818
July-September 2010	887
October-December 2010	822
January-March 2011	948
April-June 2011	901

The Ministry of Justice has issued a 'holding reply' on 47 occasions between April 2010 and June 2011. A holding reply in this instance is one sent in accordance with the provisions of the Act informing the requester that the balance of the public interest arguments relating to the disclosure of the information requested requires further consideration, and as such the deadline for response is legitimately extended. The Department can only take this approach if it is considering an exemption which is subject to the application of a public interest test. By quarter, the figures are as follows:

Quarter	*Number of PIT extensions*
April-June 2010	13
July-September 2010	11
October-December 2010	8
January-March 2011	9
April-June 2011	6

The Department is unable to provide information about the number of requests not responded to within 40 days, without incurring disproportionate cost. However, the number of times that the Department has responded to a FOIA request beyond the statutory 20 day deadline is 660 (April 2010-June 2011). This can be broken down further:

Quarter	*Responded to late*
April-June 2010	125
July-September 2010	93
October-December 2010	84
January-March 2011	136
April-June 2011	222

The number of cases that had not received a substantive response, at time of the relevant official statistics publication, for the period April 2010-June 2011, areas follows:

Quarter	*Number substantive response yet issued*
April-June 2010	22
July-September 2010	18
October-December 2010	17
January-March 2011	50
April-June 2011	105

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78913]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice publishes on its website quarterly and annual statistics on Freedom of Information requests received by over 40 central government bodies. The information provided has been taken from these publications. The figures provided are for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 June 2011.

Under the Official Statistics Code of Practice, we cannot release statistics for a time period prior to their appearance in a regular statistical report. Statistics beyond 31 June 2011 will be collated and published in due course.

These figures include only first requests; information provided at internal review or subsequent appeal stages available under the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act') are not included.

	Number
(a) Commercially sensitive information	38
(b) Do not hold	914
(c) Refused under costs	1126
(d) Refused as repeated	19
(e) Refused as vexatious	7

The total number of requests received in this period was 4,075.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78914]

Mr Djanogly: Departmental officials within the Ministry of Justice determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are engaged.

However, the application of the exemption in Section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) of FOIA is subject to the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, who for Government Departments is a Minister of the Crown.

The Ministry of Justice obtains the opinion of the qualified person by seeking the view of—usually—the Minister responsible for the subject matter to which the information relates.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 391-2W, on departmental lost property, whether he has had discussions on the activities of ElcomSoft and its password breaking programmes; and if he will make a statement. [79372]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has not had any discussions on the activities of ElcomSoft and its password breaking programmes.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77592]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Neither my ministerial office nor special advisers are funded externally.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75517]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since May 2010 the Ministry of Justice has spent the following on first class travel:

(a) Air: £4,279;

(b) Boat: nil;

(c) Train: £889,138.

We have introduced a new travel and subsistence policy in April 2010 containing restrictions on using first class travel. However, the policy does recognise that in certain cases (e.g. when accompanying a Minister or where a member of staff has special needs) and with prior management approval, first class travel is undertaken.

Extradition

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on how many extradition requests to the UK have been refused by a court under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in each year since 2000. [79335]

Mr Blunt: The Department does not compile information about requests for extradition of persons from the United Kingdom in a way that would permit the reasons for refusal to be ascertained to this level of detail. The information requested could therefore only be found by manual examination of case files, and would incur a disproportionate cost.

Legal Aid Scheme: Prisoners

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners currently serving indeterminate sentences in England and Wales have received legal aid for proceedings in the family courts relating to *(a)* custody of children, *(b)* adoption of children, *(c)* contact with children and *(d)* parental responsibility. [79390]

Mr Djanogly: This information is not kept by either the Ministry of Justice or the Legal Services Commission.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011; [78077]

(2) how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78086]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows:

(1) The Legal Directorate within the Ministry of Justice provides advice to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, and Ministers directly as required and indirectly when policy officials request legal advice for submissions. There is no central record of all the legal advice provided by the Legal Directorate and it would not be possible to provide this information for the periods requested without manually searching files and submissions and incurring disproportionate costs.

(2) Total headcount in Legal sections of the Ministry of Justice.

	Number
MOJ HQ	85
HMCTS (July figures)	[1]1,852
NOMS	[2]—
ALBS/NDPBS	[3]—

[1] Includes magistrates courts legal advisers and tribunal lawyers and registrars.

[2] No legal staff employed directly.

[3] Information for the period requested is not available centrally and can not be collated within the time frame without incurring disproportionate costs.

Under the Governments Transparency Agenda the department publishes senior salary and organogram data for the MOJ and its agencies including executive NDPBs (CCRC, CICA, ICO, JAC, LSC, LSB, Parole Board and YJB) on the Justice website however it does not include advisory NDPBs.

The last figures published provided information as at 31 March and, the next exercise will produce the September data which is due to be published at the end of November. This information can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/transparency-data/senior-civil-service-salaries-and-organograms.htm

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 27 September 2011 with regard to Mr Naseer Ahmed Bhatti. [79375]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have now replied.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in prison who are *(a)* citizens of other EU member states and *(b)* non-EU citizens. [79297]

Mr Blunt: As at 30 September 2011 there were 11,076 foreign national prisoners, of which 3,776 were EU nationals and 7,300 non-EU nationals. The number of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality is published quarterly in the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin 'Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin—Table 1.5. The publication is available free of charge via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Private Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which services *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* his Department provide to private companies which are managing jails. [78811]

Mr Blunt: Private sector suppliers do not generally rely on shared services being provided by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) or the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for the delivery of their contractual commitments.

Private sector providers receive some support in relation to auditing and assurance, contractual and operational policy advice and operational and incident support. In addition, on newer custodial contracts they use some MOJ third-party contracts for goods and services (e.g. food), where there are financial benefits and it is in the public interest. Other shared national contracts include contracted court and inter-prison escorting services and, where appropriate, as part of an integrated national service, data, security and some other operational arrangements are shared.

Translation Services

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost to the public purse was of providing translation services to foreign *(a)* defendants in court cases and *(b)* offenders in prisons in each of the last five years. [72981]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice's central accounting systems do not all separately record the costs of providing translation services to foreign defendants and offenders. It would incur disproportionate cost to disaggregate such costs from the respective accounts.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* he, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78652]

Gregory Barker: Details of meetings that are held between DECC Ministers and external parties are published externally on the Department's website on a quarterly basis. Information for other officials' meetings is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78850]

Gregory Barker: Details of meetings that are held between DECC Ministers and external parties are published externally on the Department's website on a quarterly basis. Information for other officials' meetings is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Carbon Emissions: Pilot Schemes

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) to the Public Bill Committee on the Energy Bill [Lords] of 21 June 2011, Written Evidence, column 42S, what progress has been made on establishing follow-on pilot programmes to the local carbon framework pilots. [79468]

Gregory Barker: DECC supported the £2.5 million Local Carbon Frameworks pilot in 2010-11, which involved 30 local authorities. Its aim was to identify the best ways to reduce carbon emissions at a local level. An evaluation of the pilot and toolkit for the benefit of all local authorities will be published later this year. There are no plans to run further local carbon framework pilots but DECC will continue to support local authorities cut carbon, and I have recently asked the Committee on Climate Change to provide advice on this.

Combined Heat and Power: Social Rented Housing

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has plans to promote the installation of micro-combined heat and power in *(a)* residential property and *(b)* social housing for the purposes of reducing carbon emissions and fuel costs. [78550]

Gregory Barker: Micro-combined heat and power will be eligible for the Green Deal, which will be available to all sectors, including social housing. It can be financed with Green Deal finance if it has been recommended during the Green Deal assessment for a given property that it can achieve savings on the energy bill.

The first 30,000 domestic sized installations (=2 kW) of micro combined heat and power are also supported by the feed-in tariff under a pilot scheme.

Public Sector Employee Bids

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77608]

Gregory Barker: No applications have been received from any member of DECC's senior civil service to run any services for which DECC is responsible since May 2010, and we have no record of any such applications from other DECC employees.

Electricity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1112W, what timetable he has set for the implementation of measures to improve competition in the domestic energy market. [78255]

Charles Hendry: The Government plan to lay an order in Parliament this month to increase the threshold for supplier participation in the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) and Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). We expect it to be in force before the end of the year.

Ofgem has announced that it plans to consult later this month on a range of tariff proposals that aim to reform the energy market by making it simpler and more competitive to reduce tariff complexity.

In December, Ofgem plan to make a decision on their proposals to improve electricity wholesale market liquidity.

Feed-in Tariffs: Housing

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the average cost to homeowners of bringing a property up to level C energy performance certificate rating before qualifying for eligibility for receipt of the feed-in tariff. [79330]

Gregory Barker: The Government's current consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) sets out two options for strengthening the link between energy efficiency and FITs. The first option is that only buildings with an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of level C would be eligible for the standard FITs rates for solar PV.

The costs of reaching level C will vary depending on the base-level energy performance of the building in question. However, we estimate that for a typical house, an investment of up to £5,600 in energy efficiency measures may be required to bring a property up to level C.

From autumn 2012, the measures necessary to meet level C would be largely financeable through the Green Deal. Prior to that, the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) scheme may also be able to provide a proportion of the installation costs for the more basic measures.

Generation Capacity

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the installed available generating capacity was of each *(a)* coal, *(b)* gas (combined-cycle gas turbine), *(c)* nuclear, *(d)* oil and *(e)* renewables plant in November 2011. [78697]

Charles Hendry: DECC publishes data on installed generation capacity for each plant owned by major power producers in the UK. This is updated on an annual basis, data up to May 2010 are available in table 5.11 of DUKES at the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

At any point in time, not all installed capacity may be available, for a number of reasons, including unplanned and planned (maintenance) outages. Based on its Winter Outlook Report (published on 11 October 2011), National Grid's operational view of Great Britain's generation capacity anticipated to be available for the start of winter 2011 is 81.8 GW. A breakdown of this capacity is shown in the following table:

Operational view of generating capacity available for winter 2011-12

Fuel type	*Capacity (MW)*
CCGT	29.3
OCGT	1.2
Pumped storage	2.7
Oil	3.4
Coal and biomass	28
Wind	3.4
Hydro	1
Interconnectors	3
Nuclear	9.8

Source:
Taken from figure E3. Embedded renewable generation is not included.

The full National Grid report can be found at the following link:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/BE947476-51DF-4D5F-8E2B-5342595157A9/49492/Winter_Outlook_Report_201112.pdf

Generators declare their forward availability to National Grid. These data are revised on a continuous basis, and are used by National Grid for both operational and planning purposes. Summary charts of declared availability ("output usable"), by fuel type, are available at the following link:

http://www.bmreports.com/bsp/bsp_home.htm

daily, two to 14 days ahead; and

weekly, two to 52 weeks ahead.

Smart Meters

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure the installation of Smart meters is done in such a way that data on the household will be made secure. [78483]

Charles Hendry: The Government recognises the privacy and security of personal data as an important issue and are putting in robust arrangements in place to protect consumers.

We are committed to following the principle of 'Privacy by design', which means that privacy issues are considered early and embedded into the design of the smart meter programme. The Government's key principles underpinning the programme's privacy framework are that consumers should have a choice as to how their smart metering data is used and by whom, except where it is required to fulfil regulated duties. We are minded to define regulated duties narrowly. The intention is to publish a further consultation on privacy policy proposals in 2012.

In addition, the arrangements for the security of the smart metering system have been developed by a dedicated team of security experts within the programme, who perform ongoing risk assessments in order to identify the nature of possible threats, and ensure that risks are appropriately managed.

Oil: Safety

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the threat to oil platforms from terrorism or criminal attack; and what steps he is taking to prevent such attacks. [79414]

Charles Hendry: The Department maintains a continuous assessment of threats to upstream oil and gas infrastructure from all sources including terrorism or criminal attack in conjunction with the Security Services and the industry. A number of measures are used to mitigate the risks; these are applied in proportion to the significance of each piece of infrastructure.

Pensioners: Fuel Poverty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to lift pensioners out of fuel poverty. [78643]

Gregory Barker: Government are committed to supporting vulnerable consumers and tackling fuel poverty and have in place a range of policies to contribute towards these aims. These include the Warm Home Discount to assist more of the most vulnerable households with their energy bills. The Core Group element of this scheme provides an automatic rebate of £120 this winter on electricity bills to poorer pensioners.

Warm Front continues to provide assistance with insulation and heating measures to low income and vulnerable pensioner households.

The CERT extension and Super Priority Group have a significant positive impact on fuel poverty. Around 185,000 households could receive measures to provide a long-term solution to fuel poverty. Many more households will receive measures which will protect them from falling into fuel poverty.

Looking forward Government continue to work towards introducing the new energy company obligation—the ECO—within the Green Deal framework. A key focus for the ECO will be on providing support for low income and vulnerable households who cannot achieve significant energy savings without an additional measure of support, enabling them to heat their homes more affordably on a long-term basis, and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has considered including bioliquids in the Renewable Heat Incentive. [79481]

Gregory Barker: As stated in the Renewable Heat Incentive policy document (published in March), we are considering whether to support bioliquids as part of developing the second phase of the scheme.

Solar Power

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* feed-in tariff and *(b)* solar installations there were in (i) the UK, (ii) each local authority area and (iii) each parliamentary constituency in each of the last 15 years. [79099]

Gregory Barker: The table, which will be placed in the Libraries of the House, shows the total solar photovoltaic installed capacity in the UK at the end of each of the last 15 years. Prior to the introduction of feed-in-tariffs, data by local authority and parliamentary constituency, as well as the number of UK solar photovoltaic installations, are not available.

The total number of feed-in-tariff installations and Feed in Tariff solar photovoltaic installations, in each local authority, parliamentary constituency and Great Britain as a whole, as at the end of September 2011, is given in an annex, a copy of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 6(ii) of his Department's consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 1 - Tariffs for Solar PV, published on 31 October 2011, for what reason 12 December was chosen as the reference date. [79030]

Gregory Barker: The reference date of 12 December 2011 proposed in the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) is six weeks after the publication date of this consultation. As the consultation explains, this period will allow many prospective generators, particularly householders, who have made a financial commitment to installing PV (for example, paying a deposit) to complete their installations and receive the current tariffs.

We recognise though that some prospective FITs generators who have incurred or committed expenditure may not be able to complete their installations and submit their applications for FITs before the proposed reference date. In forming the proposal, we have taken into account the possibility of hardship to persons in this situation. We consider that the proposed approach is reasonable given a number of factors. These include the urgency of the concerns about the impact on the scheme's budget of continuing high levels of uptake at the current tariffs, including any rush of new installations triggered by the consultation. In addition, the proposed new tariffs are designed to provide a reasonable rate of return in line with those intended when the scheme was first introduced. The FITs scheme was never intended to provide windfall profits and in the current climate we regard the returns expected for FIT generators under the proposed new tariffs to be reasonable.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 32 of his Department's consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 1 - Tariffs for Solar PV, published on 31 October 2011, whether his Department has made an estimate of the average time lag between when a project is installed and when it is confirmed on Ofgem's central fit register. [79031]

Gregory Barker: The average length of time between the commissioning date of a solar photovoltaic (PV) installation and the date on which it is confirmed on the Ofgem central feed-in tariffs (FITs) register is 49 days.

It is important to note that the confirmation of an installation on the Ofgem central FIT register is the last stage in the FITs application process, and is later than the date an installation becomes eligible for FITs payments.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the timing of his planned consultation on solar feed-in tariffs on the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises to fully participate in that consultation. [79287]

Gregory Barker: The reference date of 12 December 2011 proposed in the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) is six weeks after the publication date of this consultation. As the consultation explains, this period will allow many prospective generators, particularly householders, who have made a financial commitment to installing PV (for example, paying a deposit) to complete their installations and receive the current tariffs.

We recognise though that some prospective FITs generators who have incurred or committed expenditure may not be able to complete their installations and submit their applications for FITs before the proposed reference date. In forming the proposal, we have taken into account the possibility of hardship to persons in this situation. We consider that the proposed approach is reasonable given a number of factors. These include the urgency of the concerns about the impact on the scheme's budget of continuing high levels of uptake at the current tariffs, including any rush of new installations triggered by the consultation. In addition, the proposed new tariffs are designed to provide a reasonable rate of return in line with those intended when the scheme was first introduced. The FITs scheme was never intended to provide windfall profits and in the current climate we regard the returns expected for FIT generators under the proposed new tariffs to be reasonable.

The Department has not specifically assessed the impact of the timing of the consultation on small and medium-sized enterprises.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the potential effects of his proposals to alter solar feed-in tariffs rates before the conclusion of the consultation period on solar feed-in tariff rates; and if he will make a statement. [79288]

Gregory Barker: The reference date of 12 December 2011 proposed in the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) is six weeks after the publication date of this consultation. As the consultation explains, this period will allow many prospective generators, particularly householders, who have made a financial commitment to installing PV (for example, paying a deposit) to complete their installations and receive the current tariffs.

We recognise though that some prospective FITs generators who have incurred or committed expenditure may not be able to complete their installations and submit their applications for FITs before the proposed reference date. In forming the proposal, we have taken into account the possibility of hardship to persons in this situation. We consider that the proposed approach is reasonable given a number of factors. These include the urgency of the concerns about the impact on the scheme's budget of continuing high levels of uptake at the current tariffs, including any rush of new installations triggered by the consultation. In addition, the proposed new tariffs are designed to provide a reasonable rate of return in line with those intended when the scheme was first introduced. The FITs scheme was never intended to provide windfall profits, paid for by energy consumers in general, and in the current climate we regard the returns expected for FIT generators under the proposed new tariffs to be reasonable.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason his consultation on solar feed-in tariffs is six weeks long. [79290]

Gregory Barker: The consultation on proposed changes to feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) runs for approximately eight weeks; from 31 October to 23 December 2011. This consultation period is shorter than that recommended in the code of practice on consultation. However, the Government considers that this is justified given the small number of issues covered by the consultation and the urgency of the budgetary risk that it is focused on addressing.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the number of solar PV systems which will have been installed, commissioned and submitted for accreditation to a feed-in tariff licensee before 12 December 2011. [79331]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that by 12 December 2011, a total of approximately 130,000 solar PV installations will be eligible for feed-in tariffs (FITs). This estimate is uncertain and depends on projected growth between now and 12 December.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 26WS, on feed-in tariffs, what estimate he has made of the number of planned solar PV installations scheduled to take place after 12 December 2011. [79461]

Gregory Barker: The following table sets out estimates for the number of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations that are projected to be installed between 12 December 2011 and the end of the current spending review period under the proposals set out in the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV.

	Installations (cumulative total)
12 December 2011-31 March 2012	30,000
2012-13	55,000
2013-14	85,000
2014-15	115,000

Notes:
1. Estimates are based on the impact assessment supporting the consultation on FITs for solar PV and take a midpoint of the projected impacts of the two options for energy efficiency requirements set out in the consultation.
2. Estimates are uncertain and depend on a number of factors including final decisions following the current consultation on FITs, how the market responds to any resulting changes in tariff levels, the future profile of costs of PV panels and the average size of installation for different tariff bands.
3. Estimates rounded to nearest 5,000.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 26WS, on feed-in tariffs, what impact assessment he carried out on the effect of the decision to reform the feed-in tariff on *(a)* the solar PV market and *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises providing solar PV installations. [79462]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) estimates that new solar PV installations will continue to come forward under the proposed changes to FITs for solar PV. The number of installations are expected to be between 70-95% less for different tariff bands than under the "Do Nothing scenario". The impact assessment does not estimate the specific impact of this, or the potential new business opportunities arising from the consultation proposals on energy efficiency, on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 26-7WS, on feed-in tariffs, what estimate he has made of the number of small and medium-sized enterprises installing solar PV who have been affected by the decision to reform the feed-in tariff. [79529]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold specific information on the number of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) currently installing solar photovoltaics (PV). 3,237 companies have been certificated to install solar PV under the Microgeneration Certification scheme. Of these, 3057 companies have been certificated since the start of the feed-in tariffs scheme in April 2010. We expect that the majority of these companies are SMEs.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committees: Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Prime Minister which Cabinet Committee is responsible for discussing progress on the Government's big society agenda; and if he will make a statement. [78209]

The Prime Minister: I have convened a steering group of Ministers on a number of occasions to help drive the big society agenda. The big society agenda is wide-ranging, covering various policy areas, and is embedded in departmental reforms. Therefore different Cabinet committees will consider different aspects.

Public Appointments

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Prime Minister (1) who has applied to be Head of the Civil Service; and when he plans to announce who will take up that appointment; [79471]

(2) how many hours per week he proposes that the Head of the Civil Service will devote to that role; and when he will have regular meetings with the post holder. [79472]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my office on 11 October 2011. This is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/cabjnet-secretary-announces-retirement

Tony Blair

Mr Amess: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 524W, on Tony Blair, how much is payable in Public Duties Cost Allowance per year; what the rate was in each year since May 2007; how much was paid to Tony Blair in Public Duties Cost Allowance in each month since 2007; what restrictions apply to the use of this allowance; and if he will make a statement. [56610]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 338W.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Capital

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects the Big Society Bank to make its first loan; and if he will make a statement. [79490]

Mr Hurd: I expect the Big Society Bank to become operational and start making investments in early 2012.

In the meantime, I have directed the Big Lottery Fund to set up an interim Investment Committee to make initial investments to support the growth of the social investment market using up to £5 million of the English portion of money released through the dormant accounts scheme.

The Investment Committee announced its first in-principle investment of up to £1 million in the Private Equity Foundation in July.

Charities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which organisations that applied for funding from the Transition Fund were not successful; and if he will make a statement. [79371]

Mr Hurd: There have been over 1,000 awards from the Transition Fund. We do not publish details of unsuccessful applicants but I can confirm that of the 1,721 applications made to the programme, 606 were unsuccessful.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78379]

Mr Maude: From 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011 the Cabinet Office and its non-departmental public bodies employed no unpaid or expenses-only interns. However, the Department did offer 11 apprenticeships and 34 paid internships.

The Social Mobility Strategy published in April 2011 clearly states that we want to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to fulfil their potential. Making work experience and internships available to young people from all walks of life is a key element of this. I am pleased that the Government are leading by example in Whitehall with a new internship programme for under-represented groups. The new Whitehall Internship Programme has been developed in response to a pledge in the coalition agreement which states that the Government will provide internships in every Whitehall Department for under-represented groups, including black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

In addition to our internship schemes for university students and recent graduates, during the summer of 2011 the Cabinet Office also offered four high achieving 16-year-olds from low-income backgrounds an opportunity to complete a short paid work experience placement, aimed at raising the aspirations of young people who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to visit or work in Whitehall. Travel and living expenses were also provided, as well as accommodation in central London and a range of after work entertainment and development opportunities.

ElcomSoft

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations he has received on the work of ElcomSoft and its password breaking programmes; and if he will make a statement. [79370]

Mr Maude: Neither I nor my officials have received any representations from ElcomSoft about their work or products.

Federation of Student Islamic Societies

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what correspondence his Department has received from *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* officials in the Home Office on recruitment events organised in conjunction with the Federation of Student Islamic Societies since 1 June 2011. [77955]

Mr Maude: There was limited correspondence in late October between Home Office and civil service fast stream officials regarding the status of the October

Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) event that was organised to promote fast stream to FOSIS members.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil service recruitment events have been organised in conjunction with the Federation of Student Islamic Societies since 1 June 2011. [77956]

Mr Maude: Civil service fast stream attended, with several other major recruiters, the Federation of Student Islamic Societies Annual Careers and Community Fair on 18 June 2011, as an opportunity to promote the fast stream graduate talent management programme.

Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the participation rate for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme was for each pay band in each year from 2006 to 2010. [79534]

Mr Maude: The number of employees eligible to be members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme but who opted out in the years between 2006 and 2010 are given in the following table, together with active membership of the scheme at the end of the relevant years, as published in the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts. We do not hold data on the breakdown of participation rates by pay band.

		Number
	Opters out	*Active members at 31 March*
2006-07	4,421	594,000
2007-08	5,576	577,000
2008-09	5,366	564,000
2009-10	4,322	574,000

Skin Cancer

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were diagnosed with malignant melanoma in each of the last 10 years. [79463]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people were diagnosed with malignant melanoma in each of the last 10 years. [79463]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma (incidence) are for the year 2009. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The table included in this answer provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of melanoma skin cancer in England for each year from 2000 to 2009.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/cancer-statistics-registrations--england--series-mb1-/no--40--2009/index.html

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma, persons, England, 2000-09[1,2]

										Cancer registrations
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
England	6,019	6,440	6,697	6,971	7,674	8,226	8,942	9,067	9,861	9,771

[1] Malignant melanoma is coded as C43 in the International Classification of Disease, Tenth revision (ICD-10).

[2] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Social Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to promote the development of social finance; and if he will make a statement. [79491]

Mr Hurd: The Government are committed to supporting the growth of a strong social investment market. In February, we published our strategy—'Growing the Social Investment Market: A vision and strategy'—which outlines our vision to create a new pillar of finance for social ventures.

Since then, Big Society Capital (BSC) has been set up and is in the process of securing Financial Services Authority and State Aid approvals. We expect it to be open for business in spring next year. BSC will use up to £400 million of dormant accounts money and £200 million investment from the 'Merlin' banks to support organisations that invest in the social sector, helping them to provide a greater range of financial services to the social sector and to raise more money for onward investment into the sector.

In July we announced a £10 million funding programme, to launch in 2012, for investment and contract readiness, in order to help social sector organisations prepare for new opportunities in public service delivery and social investment. In August, the Government announced a trial of four Social Impact Bonds which would let people invest in social projects and be paid a return if the projects are successful.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Females

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent annually on funding for organisations supporting *(a)* women's rights and *(b)* women's health in Afghanistan. [78719]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all DFID's projects and programmes, including annual spend, are available online at:

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/

The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting programmes that directly benefit women's organisations and activities in Afghanistan. Our funding to the International Planned Parenthood Foundation and WOMANKIND Worldwide is supporting civil society organisations in Afghanistan and elsewhere address the human rights and practical needs of women and girls. During my recent visit to Afghanistan I launched a major new civil society programme which will help Afghan organisations to hold their government to account. The programme will particularly target women (and youth) and it is expected that many women's organisations will benefit. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Support Unit at the Ministry of Justice. The FCO also provides support to paralegal services working with women and girls in adult prisons and juvenile detention centres.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides financial support to organisations in Afghanistan which provide assistance to women or girls who have been victims of *(a)* domestic abuse, *(b)* rape and *(c)* forced marriage; and if he will make a statement. [78720]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development is not currently supporting organisations in Afghanistan that provide direct assistance to women and girls who have been the victims of domestic abuse, rape and forced marriage. However, during my recent visit to Afghanistan I announced a major new civil society programme which will help Afghan organisations to hold their Government to account, including on their obligations to protect women and girls from violence, and promote human rights more generally. The programme will particularly target women and young people and it is expected that many women's organisations will benefit, including those focussed on rights issues.

Afghanistan: Mortality Rates

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Afghanistan on maternal mortality rates in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [78718]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I had discussions in Kabul last week with Afghan Ministers on a range of subjects including health outcomes. Officials met with the acting Minister of Public Health in June 2011 to discuss maternal mortality issues. The ministry is prioritising women and children's health with a focus on reducing maternal mortality, as well as neonatal and under-five mortality. It has developed a new reproductive health policy and strategy to run from 2011 to 2013. We expect new data on maternal mortality in Afghanistan to be published by the Government of Afghanistan in the coming months.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid he plans to provide to Burma in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [78714]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's assistance to Burma has been designed to achieve results for poor and vulnerable people there, with programmes in areas including maternal health, livelihoods and malaria. To enable this, I have allocated the following levels of aid to Burma: £36 million in 2011-12; £36 million in 2012-13; and £55 million in 2013-14.

Further details are available in the DFID Burma operational plan which is available on the DFID website;

www.dfid.gov.uk

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77890]

Mr Duncan: The booklet HMG Personnel Security Controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks.

It is not appropriate to confirm which specific posts or post holders within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for hostile targeting of individuals.

Since November 2010 the post of head of communications is held by James Helm, succeeding James Hardy. Since May 2010 the deputy head of communications is Deborah Hermer, and the head of news is Charlotte Morgan.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in his Department. [77891]

Mr Duncan: The booklet HMG Personnel Security Controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks.

It is not appropriate to confirm which specific posts or post holders within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for the hostile targeting of individuals.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77893]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development currently uses both "Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services", a trading fund of FCO, and the Defence Vetting Agency, for national security vetting.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77894]

Mr Duncan: Sixty-one temporary building passes are currently held by persons other than staff (including those of other Government Departments) and contractors.

The Department's access control system only holds data for current live passes, and historical information is not available.

Departmental Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79572]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: None.

Developing Countries: Economic Situation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the effects of the recession on *(a)* developing countries and *(b)* developed country aid provision. [77080]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have had a number of discussions regarding the effects of the recession with ministerial colleagues.

Developing Countries: Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of his Department's country offices will deliver teacher training programmes to contribute to the Government's pledge to train 190,000 teachers by 2014; what plans he has to ensure that such programmes comply with the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities; and what guidance he has issued country offices on the use of participatory teaching methods to improve quality and inclusiveness in teaching. [78602]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government's pledge to train 190,000 teachers by 2014 will be delivered through multilateral organisations. DFID expects multilateral organisations to adhere to the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in their operations. In addition, DFID is supporting teacher training through our bilateral education programme, as published in the Operational Plans of DFID Country Offices. In 2010, the Department issued a Guidance Note entitled "Education for children with disabilities—improving access and quality", which emphasises the importance of complying with the UN convention, and utilising inclusive methodologies in teaching to ensure quality and inclusiveness in education.

Equatorial Guinea: Overseas Aid

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 145W, on Equatorial Guinea: overseas aid, (1) what form the multilateral aid to Equatorial Guinea, to which the UK contributes, takes; [78847]

(2) what role the UK has in the oversight of performance, results and fiduciary issues relating to financial aid to Equatorial Guinea; [78846]

(3) if he will cease UK contributions to multilateral aid to Equatorial Guinea in light of the reports of excessive personal expenditure by a government Minister in that country; [78845]

Mr Duncan: In 2008-09 (the last year for which the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development has published figures), Equatorial Guinea received $11 million in multilateral aid, comprising $5 million from the Global Fund to prevent malaria and treat HIV/AIDS, $4 million from EU institutions to improve governance, $1 million from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for HIV/AIDS education and clean water, and $1 million from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for reproductive health. The UK's imputed share of multilateral aid to Equatorial Guinea was £278,000 in 2008-09. Information on the imputed UK share of multilateral aid is published each year in Statistics on International Development.

The Global Fund's grant to Equatorial Guinea for anti-retroviral treatments for HIV/AIDS has now closed and its grant for the provision of anti-malaria bed-nets is nearly closed. Equatorial Guinea does not currently have access to the 10th allocation of the European Development Fund, because it has not ratified the 1st revision of the Cotonou agreement.

Along with other donors, the UK makes voluntary or assessed contributions to a range of multilateral development organisations which are not tied to a particular project, sector, or country and can be spent against any activity that relates to the organisation's mandate. It is for the organisations themselves, with approval from their management boards, to decide how best to allocate funding to meet their mandates.

Following the Multilateral Aid Review, the UK is pressing to improve performance, results, value for money and fiduciary control in the multilateral development organisations to which we contribute. We do this through technical discussions, high-level meetings between DFID Ministers and senior officials of the organisations concerned, and our membership of the management boards.

Overseas Aid

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what occasions Official Development Assistance funding has been used to fund construction of an airport. [79454]

Mr Duncan: In order to fulfil obligations to provide basic levels of access, Official Development Assistance has been used over the past few years to fund elements of airport construction in two other Overseas Territories which are ODA eligible—Anguilla (completed in 2001) and Montserrat (2005). Aid has also been used in the past few years to assist the construction of an airport in Lashkar Gar in Afghanistan (2009).

St Helena: Airports

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential for increased tourism revenues arising from construction of an airport on St Helena. [79396]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has commissioned a number of feasibility studies which have examined potential tourism revenues as a result of an airport. The first study was undertaken in 2005. A further analysis was undertaken in 2009. Assessments of revenue and expenditure scenarios were examined again in May 2010 as part of updated economic assessment work. Each of these analyses has concluded that an airport will contribute to a sharp increase in the number of tourists and to increases in tourism revenues.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what value for money assessment he has made of the decision to fund development of an airport on St Helena. [79398]

Mr Duncan: The business case for the St Helena airport agreed by Ministers has rigorously reviewed the value for money case for an airport. The value for money case builds on a number of economic and financial assessments which have been completed since 2005. All of these reports have come to the same conclusion, namely that the best long-term solution from an economic and financial perspective for both HMG and St Helena is to construct an airport. Building and running a new ship for St Helena would consign the island to long-term isolation, increase the island's dependence on UK aid indefinitely and therefore would cost the UK taxpayer more in the long run.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has plans to fund infrastructure projects in British Overseas Territories in addition to the new airport at St Helena. [79399]

Mr Duncan: Providing and maintaining infrastructure for Overseas Territories in receipt of UK budgetary assistance is an important priority for the UK aid programme. Every investment in infrastructure in OTs is subject to the Treasury's five case model. As a result, each investment is subject to rigorous value for money assessments. Several investments are currently being considered in other Overseas Territories, including new housing, school and hospital building programmes in Montserrat and a maintenance project for Calshot Harbour on Tristan Da Cunha.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding has been committed to the new St Helena airport by the private sector. [79400]

Mr Duncan: An independent review which looked at funding options concluded that a public-private partnership (PPP) approach was unlikely to deliver better value for money for taxpayers compared to the grant funded approach. The airport will therefore, in accordance with the review and consistent with decisions in the 2005 contract, be funded by the UK Government.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultation his Department held with local residents on the development of a new airport on St Helena. [79401]

Mr Duncan: The people of St Helena have been consulted extensively over the last 10 years about the construction of an airport. The first referendum on the subject took place in January 2002 when 71.6% of respondents voted in favour of an airport. Focus meetings were held in community centres around the island in 2006. In 2009 a formal public consultation was held. The outcome of this consultation mirrored the 2002 referendum, with very strong majority support for an airport.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of his decision to grant funding for a new airport on St Helena. [79402]

Mr Duncan: A full Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed airport has been carried out to UK standards and has been reviewed by the Institute of Environmental Management. The reply given on 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 751W, provides a fuller statement on this subject.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of St Helena of his decision to grant funding for a new airport. [79403]

Mr Duncan: A full feasibility study was undertaken in 2005 which looked in detail at the impact on the economy of introducing air access to St Helena. This was reviewed in 2010. These studies show that an airport provides the best chance to reduce St Helena's dependence on UK aid. St Helena Government is currently reviewing its tax, investment, immigration and land policies and is enacting reforms in these and other areas. This is being done to encourage investment and private sector activity so that St Helena can take full advantage of the opportunities an airport will bring.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he received in advance of his decision to grant funding for the new St Helena airport. [79404]

Mr Duncan: The majority of St. Helenians, those living on the island and the diaspora living and working in Ascension, the Falklands, and in the UK, have long called for an airport to be built on St. Helena. These views are underlined by the results of recent referenda on the island which showed a clear majority in support of an airport. Many others connected with St. Helena have campaigned for opportunities for economic growth and development that only an airport can bring to the island.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reason the Government's decision to fund an airport at St Helena was made in advance of the publication of the Government's strategy for the overseas territories. [79405]

Mr Duncan: This Government set out four conditions for the construction of an airport in July 2010, and these have now been met. The decision to fund an airport in St Helena is entirely consistent with the Government's vision for the overseas territories as vibrant and flourishing communities, generating wider opportunities for their people so they become less dependent on UK aid. It also brings to a close the uncertainty the British citizens of St Helena have been experiencing over their future since the airport project was approved in 2005 and 'paused' in 2008.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development from what budget within his Department the funding for the new airport on St Helena will come. [79406]

Mr Duncan: The airport will be funded from the Department for International Development's programme capital budget.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects the construction of the airport on St Helena to be completed. [79407]

Mr Duncan: The construction phase is due to complete towards the end of 2015.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs before reaching his decision on a new airport on St Helena. [79455]

Mr Duncan: The Department of International Development has worked very closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, at both official and ministerial level, in reaching the decision to build an airport on St. Helena. The Governor and Government of St. Helena have also played a full part in deliberations.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many bids he received for the design, build and operate contract for the new airport on St Helena. [79456]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development received one bid. The other company that had submitted a tender prior to the 'pause' in negotiations announced by the Labour Government in December 2008 declined to resubmit its tender in June 2011.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the tendering process was for awarding the design, build and operate contract for the new airport on St Helena. [79457]

Mr Duncan: Following a market testing exercise conducted in October 2010, DFID reissued the Invitation to Tender to two bidders, Impregilo SpA and Basil Read (Pty) Limited. Both these companies had submitted tenders prior to the "pause" in negotiations announced by the Labour Government in December 2008. Impregilo declined to resubmit its tender in June 2011, leaving Basil Read (Pty) Ltd as the sole bidder. The tender was assessed and found to be compliant. The DFID/St Helena Government negotiation team entered into negotiations in early August 2011 and concluded negotiations in October 2011 at 20% below the previous offer in real terms, taking into account inflation and the value of the pound.

St Helena: Overseas Aid

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria he used to determine that funding an airport on St Helena was an appropriate use of Official Development Assistance. [79458]

Mr Duncan: All the Department for International Development's (DFID's) support for St Helena meets the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) definition of Official Development Assistance (ODA). Special provision is made for development assistance to the British Overseas Territories under the International Development Act (2002).

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Voter Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1099W, on voter registration, what the reason was for the closure of the electoral participation fund; and what assessment he has made of the effects of closure on electoral registration levels. [78254]

Mr Harper: The decision to end the participation fund was taken as part of the emergency Budget which was published on 22 June 2010. One of the main reasons for the decision was the under-use of the fund. In its last full year only £427,190 —17.1% of the total available—was claimed by electoral registration officers. The Government have made no assessment of the effects of closure on electoral registration levels, but as part of the transition to individual electoral registration is funding research on the current state of the electoral register and under-registered groups.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has received any requests from international observers to monitor the implementation of his proposed changes to electoral registration legislation. [79424]

Mr Harper: As of 7 November 2011 the Government have not received any requests from international observers to monitor the implementation of individual electoral registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will consider extending the powers of Scottish and Welsh chief electoral officers to enable then to conduct registration initiatives similar to those undertaken in Northern Ireland. [79425]

Mr Harper: Scotland and Wales do not have chief electoral officers. However, pursuant to the answer I gave on 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 342W, the Government are considering a number of ways to increase voter registration rates in the context of the move from household to individual electoral registration. This includes conducting research with groups who have traditionally been under-registered to explore ways in which they may be encouraged to register.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1100W, on electoral registration, what assessment he has made of the capacity for the results of dataset pilot tests to inform any new legislation on electoral registration within the time available. [79426]

Mr Harper: The data matching pilots will conclude this month and external evaluation will be completed by the Electoral Commission in March 2012. The results of these pilots will thereafter be available to Parliament to inform its deliberations on individual electoral registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1100-1W, on electoral registration, how many prosecutions there were for not completing an electoral registration form between 1997 and 2007. [79484]

Mr Harper: The Government do not hold this information. The Electoral Commission does not hold data on the number of prosecutions initiated as a result of a failure to respond to the annual canvass between 1997 and 2007. However, they do hold data from 2008 to 2010 which can be found on the Electoral Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/data-collection

The Electoral Commission figures show that the number of prosecutions initiated as a result of a failure to respond to the annual canvass since 2008 are as follows:

	Prosecutions
2008	183
2009	67
2010	144

These data are collected by voluntary survey of electoral registration officers (EROs). The Electoral Commission does not have the power to collect this information and it is therefore not compulsory for EROs to complete the form.

Lobbying

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent progress he has made on establishing a statutory register of lobbyists. [79631]

Mr Harper: The Government will publish a consultation paper on the introduction of a statutory register of lobbyists this month.

EDUCATION

Adam Werritty

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions in an official capacity he has met Mr Adam Werritty since May 2010. [76367]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has not met with Adam Werritty in an official capacity since May 2010.

Adoption

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many adoptive placements broke down in England in each of the last five years. [78555]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of adoptions which breakdown following the making of an adoption order is not collected centrally.

Information is available on the outcomes of children placed for adoption at 31 March 2007. This is published as part of the Adoption and Special Guardianship data pack, and shows that 5% of children placed for adoption at 31 March 2007 had not been adopted three years later. This includes 3% of children who remained as placed for adoption at 31 March 2010. The Adoption and Special Guardianship data pack can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/a0076713/datapack

To produce this information for years other than 2007 would incur disproportionate cost.

Arts: Teachers

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* art, *(b)* music, *(c)* media studies and *(d)* drama teachers are teaching in each region of England. [77945]

Mr Gibb: Information on the qualifications and deployment of teachers in the secondary sector is collected in the new School Workforce Census, which took place in November 2010. The "School Workforce Census Statistical First Release" provides a head count of teachers to year groups 7-13 by subject in Table 12.

The following table summarises the number of teachers of Art and Design, Music, Media Studies, and Drama, by English region:

Teachers of art and design, music, media studies, and drama in publicly funded secondary schools (head count) to year groups 7-13 in 2010, by region year: November 2010—coverage: England

	Total head count[1] (rounded to nearest 10)			
Region	*Art and Design*	*Music*	*Media Studies*	*Drama*
North-east	550	310	280	380
South-west	1,470	810	800	1,210
North-west	1,770	1,010	810	1,540
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,140	590	580	900
East midlands	1,030	590	540	880
West midlands	1,430	860	650	1,200
East of England	1,440	870	800	1,320

Teachers of art and design, music, media studies, and drama in publicly funded secondary schools (head count) to year groups 7-13 in 2010, by region year: November 2010—coverage: England

	Total head count[1] (rounded to nearest 10)			
Region	*Art and Design*	*Music*	*Media Studies*	*Drama*
Inner London	630	350	370	480
Outer London	1,260	710	780	1,020
South-east	2,510	1,420	1,410	2,130
Total	13,230	7,520	7,020	11,060

[1] Teachers are counted once against each subject that they are teaching. Head counts are used, so a teacher teaching music and drama would be counted once in each.

Note:

Figures are based on over 158,000 secondary level teachers (66% of the secondary workforce) submitting curriculum information, and weighted to provide national estimates of the number of secondary level teachers by subject.

Source:

School Workforce Census

Data Protection

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many official ministerial papers were recorded as not returned to his Department or otherwise unaccounted for in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76811]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 26 October 2011]:* The Department's Cabinet documents officer has robust systems in place to ensure compliance with Cabinet Office guidance on handling papers. No ministerial papers have been recorded as not returned or unaccounted for since May 2010.

Public Sector Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78054]

Tim Loughton: Information for the Department representing the salary bands as at 31 March 2011 is set out in the following table:

Salary band	*Staff numbers*
£65,000 - £94,999	105
£95,000 - £139,999	12
£140,000 - £174,999	1
£175,000+	1

Salary information for the Department's arm's length bodies is a matter for them and is not held centrally. Contact information for them can be found at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/b0065313/disclosure-of-scs-posts-and-salary-information

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77898]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has a joint business agreement with the Defence Vetting Services, National Security Vetting (DBS NSV), part of the MOD (formerly the Defence Vetting Agency—DVA) for undertaking security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms he has put in place to monitor and evaluate the effect of ending education maintenance allowance on the *(a)* recruitment, *(b)* attendance levels, *(c)* retention and *(d)* achievement of students post-16. [76069]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The Department for Education is committed to monitoring the effects of the new arrangements for 16-19 financial support through the commissioning of an independent evaluation of the impact of the new arrangements. This will help us to find out whether the fund is meeting the needs of young people, particularly those who are disproportionately likely not to participate post-16; and to assess the delivery of the policy.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of the removal of educational maintenance allowance on residents of Birmingham Ladywood constituency aged 16 to 17 years. [76336]

Mr Gibb: All local authorities must ensure that there are sufficient further education and training opportunities for every young person in the area; that young people are encouraged, enabled or assisted to participate in education and training; and that participation is monitored locally so that those young people who need support are clearly identified. Local authorities should also have processes in place to ensure that all 16 and 17 years olds were offered a place in education or training before the end of September this year. The Department for Education is monitoring young peoples' participation both nationally and locally, and will publish figures in due course.

The Department for Education is also committed to monitoring the effects of the new arrangements for 16-19 financial support through an independent evaluation of the impact of the new arrangements. This will help us to assess whether the 16-19 Bursary Fund is meeting the needs of young people, particularly those who are disproportionately likely not to participate post-16, and to assess the delivery of the policy.

First Aid: Curriculum

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to including first aid in the new national curriculum. [79211]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* First aid is currently included in the non-statutory programme of study for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) education. We are carrying out an internal review of PSHE, which is not part of the national curriculum. The purpose of this review is to identify ways in which schools can improve the quality of teaching of PSHE.

We aim to reform the national curriculum so that it properly reflects the body of essential knowledge in key subjects and does not absorb the overwhelming majority of teaching time in schools. A less prescriptive national curriculum will also give teachers greater flexibility to use their professional judgement to design wider school curricula that best meet the needs of their pupils. Our proposals for the new scope of the national curriculum will be announced next year, following which there will be consultation before final decisions are made.

Free Schools

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) on what number of pupils his Department bases its calculation of the funding for each free school in operation; [76177]

(2) how many pupils are enrolled in each free school in operation. [76178]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Pupil funding for each free school is based on the Academy Trust's estimate of pupil numbers at the opening date following the enrolment process. The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) then compares each trust's estimate of pupil numbers for the current academic year against actual pupil numbers in census returns. This comparison is used to make adjustments (either additional or clawed back grant) to pupil funding in subsequent years if any shortfall or increase in pupil numbers exceeds the threshold percentage set out in the funding agreement.

We estimate that over 3000 pupils have enrolled during the first intake for the 24 free schools that opened in September 2011. This means that these schools are on course to reach their full capacity in the coming years. Further information about the number of children on roll at each school will be collected in the school census and published in due course.

Free Schools: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 208W, when he expects to finalise the budget allocation for free schools for 2011-12. [76947]

Mr Gibb: The budget allocation for free schools for 2011-12 will be finalised in due course.

Grammar Schools

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the future provision of grammar schools; and what plans he has for the future number of grammar schools. [76080]

Mr Gibb: Grammar schools often represent the very best in standards and attainment in our education system with a high proportion of young people going on to study at the most competitive universities. It is not possible, under the prohibitions in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to establish any new wholly selective school and the Government have no plans to amend this legislation.

Grandparents

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department produces for social workers on the role of grandparents; whether he plans to amend any such guidance; if he will place in the Library a copy of any such guidance; and if he will make a statement. [78742]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not produce guidance for social workers on the role of grandparents. In April 2011 new statutory guidance to local authorities came into force which sets out the framework for the provision of support to family and friends carers and includes a requirement for local authorities to publicise the support and services available locally. This statutory guidance has been placed in the House Libraries.

Health Education: Nutrition

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the provision in schools of education on food. [78105]

Mr Gibb: Food education (also known as "food technology"), is currently part of the design and technology curriculum. It is compulsory for all pupils in maintained primary schools, at key stages 1 and 2. Although it is not currently a compulsory part of the secondary curriculum, most secondary schools in England are teaching practical cooking to 11 to 14-year-olds, including food education, at key stage 3, as it is one of two topics within the design and technology curriculum that must be taught. The National Curriculum Review which is currently under way will advise the Government as to which subjects should remain in the national curriculum and at what key stages they should feature. Our proposals for the content of the new national curriculum will be published early in 2012.

Mathematics: Science

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to encourage more pupils to take up mathematics and science subjects. [74236]

Mr Gibb: In June 2011 the Secretary of State for Education announced that the Government would be spending up to £135 million over the current spending review period to support the take-up of mathematics and science in schools. This funding will support incentives for graduates to train to teach mathematics and science; high quality continuing professional development for existing teachers in these subjects; and greater take-up of three separate sciences at GCSE and further mathematics at A level. In addition, we have already announced that mathematics and science will be compulsory subjects within the national curriculum following the current review, and we have included them within the new English baccalaureate.

A recent survey by the National Centre for Social Research showed that 29% of year 9 pupils had opted to study triple science at GCSE while a further 54% had opted for core and additional science.

The Schools White Paper signalled the Government's intention to provide stronger incentives such as training bursaries of up to £20,000 to science graduates to attract high calibre recruits into teaching.

Music: Education

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his response to the Henley Review of Music Education, when he plans to publish his national plan for music education. [75396]

Mr Gibb: We will shortly publish a National Plan for Music Education, which will reform the delivery and funding of music education. It will ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn an instrument, learn to sing, have opportunities to play in ensembles and have access to musical progression routes regardless of where they live and their family circumstances. The needs of the pupil will be at the heart of the plan. Through it, the Government will signal their commitment to ensuring that all pupils have access to high quality music education.

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will assess whether the condition in the grant agreement between his Department and the New Schools Network has been compromised; [76019]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* events organised by his Department representatives of the New Schools Network have been invited since May 2010; [76020]

(3) what bodies his Department has interviewed in connection with the grant agreement to provide support for the free school pre-application process; [76021]

(4) how his Department has been providing support for the free school pre-application process since 30 September 2011; [76022]

(5) whether his Department has provided *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support to the New Schools Network in addition to that provided by the grant agreement. [76023]

Mr Gibb: As with all grants of this nature, officials considered NSN's performance and compliance regularly. There were no breaches of the grant agreement. The Department has not provided any financial or other support to NSN in addition to that provided under the terms of the grant agreement. The Department has not provided any specific pre-application support since 30 September although we are aware NSN, in its role as an independent charity, has been available to offer support to free school proposers. No interviews have been carried out by the Department in connection with the recent competition to award a grant to provide support for the free school pre-application process. Ministers and Special Advisers have met NSN on several occasions since May 2010; officials have met NSN frequently. Providing information on the exact number, and type of events, and meetings could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the conclusion of his summit with young people in May 2011 that young people preferred face-to-face professional career guidance, how he plans that access to such guidance will be assured under the new National Careers Service. [78937]

Mr Gibb: There is a range of evidence suggesting that young people like to access advice in a variety of ways including face-to-face, in groups or online. Schools are best placed to know what support their pupils need. The Government recognise that many young people can benefit from a face-to-face discussion of their skills, abilities and interests to help them think through future education and career options. We will highlight this important issue to schools through statutory guidance in advance of the new duty to secure access to independent careers guidance commencing in September 2012, subject to the passage of the Education Bill. The guidance will place a clear expectation on schools that they should secure face-to-face careers guidance where it is the most suitable support, particularly for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Schools may choose to work in partnership with providers engaged in delivering the National Careers Service, or with other providers, as they see fit. The National Careers Service will be required to meet a robust, high quality standard and all providers involved in the service will be expected to be accredited to the standard by April 2013. It was recently announced that this quality standard will be the revised matrix standard. The standard will assist schools in making well-informed decisions about which providers to work with.

Teachers: Pensions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential effects of planned changes to teacher pension contributions on the proportion of teachers who opt out of the Teachers Pension Scheme. [77624]

Mr Gibb: At the spending review the Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that some additional members, amounting to 1% of the value of the paybill, would opt-out of all the public service schemes as a result of the proposed increase in pension contributions.

A consultation on the proposed increase to contributions for members of the Teachers Pension Scheme in 2012-13 was recently concluded and the Department is considering all responses received prior to the deadline. The Government are committed to implementing the contributions increase in a way which will protect the lower paid from the full impact of the changes and will therefore reduce the risk of increased opt-outs from the scheme.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what initiatives he plans to introduce to *(a)* retain talented teachers and *(b)* encourage high-calibre graduates to enter the teaching profession after the introduction of his planned changes to the Teachers Pension Scheme. [78764]

Mr Gibb: The reformed Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS) will remain a valuable part of the remuneration package available to teachers and will continue to play an important role in recruiting and retaining teachers. The reformed scheme will be introduced from 2015 and proposals are still under discussion with unions. We are taking the teaching profession's views very seriously, to reach agreement on a scheme which will reflect the distinctive nature of the teaching profession and the value of the work carried out by teachers. Recruitment and retention issues will be considered alongside the implementation of the reformed TPS.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to carry out an independent valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme. [78765]

Mr Gibb: The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011, but valuations remain on hold. Valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and other factors. Many of these are currently under review as part of the Government's proposed reforms of the public sector pension schemes. A decision on when to undertake the next valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme will be taken in due course.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish a financial valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme since the last such valuation in 2004. [78990]

Mr Gibb: The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011, but valuations remain on hold. Valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and other factors. Many of these are currently under review as part of the Government's proposed reforms of the public sector pension schemes. A decision on when to undertake the next valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme will be taken in due course.

Teachers: Training

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average UCAS points score was of people starting *(a)* a Postgraduate Certificate in Education course, *(b)* the Graduate Teacher Programme, *(c)* a Bachelor of Education course, *(d)* a BA/BSc with Qualified Teacher Status course and *(e)* the Teach First programme in each of the last 10 years. [77960]

Mr Gibb: UCAS scores of postgraduate teacher trainees are not collected centrally. The following table shows the average UCAS tariff score of first-year college-based undergraduate teacher trainees from 2002/03 to 2009/10 inclusive. It includes both bachelor of education courses and BA/BSc with qualified teacher status courses.

Average UCAS tariff score of first-year undergraduate teacher trainees, 2002/03 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Average UCAS points score*
2002/03	238.7
2003/04	249.1
2004/05	255.1
2005/06	266.5
2006/07	277.2
2007/08	265.0
2008/09	283.0
2009/10	291.4

Notes:
1. UCAS tariff score was used to assess candidates from 2002/03 onwards.
2. UCAS introduced the tariff score to take account of curriculum 2000. It was designed to make different qualifications comparable. It is based on a number of qualifications including A/AS levels. Grade A* at A level scores 140 points; grade A at A level scores 120 points; grade B scores 100 points; grade C scores 80 points; grade D scores 60 points and grade E scores 40 points. Tariff scores cover those entrants for whom data are collected. Tariff score data are not collected for some qualifications, including access courses, OND/ONC, HND/HNC, GCE, A/SCE, Higher, GNVQ/GSVQ, NVQ/SVQ level 3.
3. Coverage is undergraduate courses in universities and other higher education institutions.
4. Includes both bachelor of education courses and BA/BSc with qualified teacher status courses as they are combined in the data source.

Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of people starting *(a)* a Postgraduate Certificate in Education course, *(b)* the Graduate Teacher Programme and *(c)* the Teach First programme had previously graduated from their undergraduate studies in each degree class in each of the last 10 years. [77981]

Mr Gibb: The following tables show the number of first-year trainees on *(a)* Postgraduate Certificate in Education courses, *(b)* the Graduate Teacher Programme and *(c)* the Teach First programme, between 2000/01 and 2009/10, by classification of their first degree. Information relating to qualifications on entry to the Graduate Teacher Programme is only available from 2003/04, and for Teach First from 2005/06.

(a) First-year primary and secondary trainees in their first year of mainstream initial teacher training (ITT) courses, by classification of first degree, 2000/01 to 2009/10

Academic year	*1st (percentage)*	*2:1 (percentage)*	*2:2 (percentage*	*3 (percentage)*	*Pass (percentage)*	*Degree class not known, or non-UK qualification (percentage)*	*Total (percentage)*	*Total number of first-year postgraduate trainees on mainstream ITT courses*
2000/01	6	44	35	4	3	8	100	19,060
2001/02	5	45	35	4	3	8	100	20,720
2002/03	6	46	34	4	3	6	100	22,180
2003/04	7	47	34	4	3	6	100	24,640
2004/05	7	47	32	3	2	8	100	24,930
2005/06	8	48	31	3	2	8	100	24,600
2006/07	8	48	32	3	2	8	100	23,780
2007/08	7	48	30	3	2	9	100	22,810

(a) First-year primary and secondary trainees in their first year of mainstream initial teacher training (ITT) courses, by classification of first degree, 2000/01 to 2009/10

Academic year	*1st (percentage)*	*2:1 (percentage)*	*2:2 (percentage*	*3 (percentage)*	*Pass (percentage)*	*Degree class not known, or non-UK qualification (percentage)*	*Total (percentage)*	*Total number of first-year postgraduate trainees on mainstream ITT courses*
2008/09	8	49	30	3	2	8	100	22,700
2009/10	9	50	28	3	3	7	100	24,070

Notes:

1. Includes universities and other higher education institutions, school-centred ITT and Open University but excludes employment based routes and cases where Qualified Teacher Status was granted on assessment without a course of initial teacher training.

2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA's Performance Profiles

(b) First-year trainees on the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP), by classification of first degree,2003/04 to 2009/10

Academic year	*1st (percentage)*	*2:1 (percentage)*	*2:2 (percentage)*	*3 (percentage)*	*Pass (percentage)*	*Degree class not known, or non-UK qualification (percentage)*	*Total (percentage)*	*Total number of first-year trainees on GTP*
2003/04	7	38	33	5	8	9	100	5,210
2004/05	8	38	32	5	9	8	100	5,340
2005/06	8	40	33	5	7	7	100	5,410
2006/07	8	44	31	5	6	7	100	5,240
2007/08	9	44	32	4	5	6	100	5,190
2008/09	8	45	31	4	5	7	100	5,080
2009/10	11	45	30	4	5	6	100	5,070

Notes:

1. Data for earlier years is not available.

2. Excludes cases where qualified teacher status is granted on assessment without a course of initial teacher training.

3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA 's Performance Profiles

(c) First-year trainees on the Teach First programme, by classification of first degree, 2005/06 to 2009/10

Academic year	*1st (percentage)*	*2:1 (percentage)*	*2:2 (percentage)*	*3 (percentage)*	*Pass (percentage)*	*Degree class not known, or non-UK qualification (percentage)*	*Total (percentage)*	*Total number of first-year trainees on Teach First programme*
2005/06	25	71	4	0	0	1	100	170
2006/07	18	70	8	0	0	4	100	250
2007/08	25	69	4	0	0	2	100	260
2008/09	22	73	4	0	0	1	100	370
2009/10	29	64	6	0	0	1	100	480

Notes:

1. Data for earlier years is not available.

2. Excludes cases where qualified teacher status is granted on assessment without a course of initial teacher training.

3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA's Performance Profiles

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Loans

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with banks and other financial institutions on identity checks needed to take out bank loans. [73053]

Mr Davey: I have held no such discussions.

The Joint Money Laundering Steering Group, an industry association, produces guidance on how financial services firms should interpret rules on identity checks, as set out in the UK money laundering regulations.

Business: Surveys

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the recommendations in the British Chamber of Commerce report entitled, "Workforce Survey—Small Businesses". [79021]

Mr Davey: This Department is leading the cross-Government Employment Law review and is looking at all evidence about the operation of the underpinning legislative framework and burdens on business, including from the British Chambers of Commerce, other business representative groups, trade unions and other stakeholders. A key objective of the review is making it easier for a business to take on staff. The review will also consider ideas that emerge from the Red Tape Challenge aimed at facilitating the recruitment of employees by businesses. Where we can make legislation easier to understand, improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, we will.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79082]

Mr Davey: As the Department does not separately identify charitable organisations within its supplier base the information requested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Company Accounts

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the merits of giving Companies House a duty to investigate companies which *(a)* persistently file late accounts and *(b)* fail to file accounts; and if he will make a statement. [79132]

Mr Davey: To combat persistent late filing of accounts Parliament introduced, in addition to the existing penalties for filing accounts late, a double penalty for companies who file late in successive years; Companies House, which is responsible for issuing late filing penalties, has issued 16,832 of these double penalties between April and September this year. When companies fail to file accounts at all, Companies House contacts the company to investigate if it is still in operation; if it is not they will take action to remove the company from the register, and in the financial year ending 31 March 2011 53,550 companies were removed for this reason. If the company is still required Companies House will, as a last resort, prosecute the company directors for failing to file the accounts. During the financial year ending 31 March 2011 Companies House prosecuted over 3,000 directors for this reason.

As a result of these initiatives there has been a substantial fall in the number of penalties issued in 2011. Therefore, I do not believe that Companies House needs further investigative powers at this time.

Company Liquidations

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount owed to unsecured creditors by firms in liquidation in each of the last three years. [79257]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service ("The Service") does not collate a total figure for the amount due to unsecured creditors by firms in liquidation but is able to provide details as to the average amount owed in compulsory liquidations.

For the year 2008/09, the mean level of debt owed by companies in compulsory liquidation was £584,134 and the median was £67,500. For 2009/10 the mean level of debt owed by companies in compulsory liquidation was £1,132,000 and the median was £81,000.

Profiling data are not available for the period 2010/11.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many liquidations which commenced *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 years or more ago have not yet been finalised. [79259]

Mr Davey: This information cannot be provided for all liquidations because the costs of retrieving it are disproportionate.

According to the case database maintained by The Insolvency Service, there are:

264 compulsory liquidations where the insolvency order was made five or more years ago;

64 compulsory liquidations where the insolvency order was made ten or more years ago;

30 compulsory liquidations where the insolvency order was made 15 or more years ago;

three compulsory liquidations where the insolvency order was made 20 or more years ago where the official receiver has not applied for release as liquidator.

Construction: Self-employed

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were self-employed in the construction industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [79391]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were self-employed in the construction industry in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. (79391)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Due to small sample sizes, estimates are not available for the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside. Estimates are also not available for periods 1997 to 1999 or for the UK for some periods - estimates for Great Britain have been provided as an alternative.

Table 1 shows the number of people self-employed in the construction industry in the available geographies for the 12 month periods ending in February for 2000 to 2004 from the LFS and for the 12 month periods ending in March for 2005 to 2011.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in the table.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons[1] self-employed in the construction industry in each year since 2000

Thousand

12 months ending:	*North east*	*Great Britain*	*UK*
February 2000	16	622	n/a
February 2001	13	630	n/a
February 2002	14	665	n/a
February 2003	18	698	n/a
February 2004	18	756	787
March 2005	20	795	828
March 2006	24	805	836
March 2007	24	830	860
March 2008	25	839	870

Table 1. Number of persons[1] self-employed in the construction industry in each year since 2000

Thousand

12 months ending:	*North east*	*Great Britain*	*UK*
March 2009	24	815	845
March 2010	19	780	810
March 2011[2]	**21	*767	*794

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key:

* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78894]

Mr Davey: The information requested covering the period May 2010 until June 2011 is published on The Ministry of Justice website

> http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

(see full statistical data reports). This information is not available on a monthly basis.

Information where no substantive response issued within 40 working days is not separately identified.

Under the Official Statistics Code of Practice, we cannot release statistics for a time period prior to their appearance in a regular statistical report. Statistics for July 2011 onwards will be published in due course.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78895]

Mr Davey: The information requested covering the period January 2010 until June 2011 is published on the Ministry of Justice website

> http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

(see full statistical data reports)

Under the Official Statistics Code of Practice, we cannot release statistics for a time period prior to their appearance in a regular statistical report. Statistics for July 2011 onwards will be published in due course.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78896]

Mr Davey: Departmental officials would normally determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

However, the exemption under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person (QP) that the exemption applies. In relation to information held by government, the qualified person must be a Minister or, if held by a non-ministerial department, the persons in charge of that department (for example, the chief executive).

The qualified persons opinion in BIS is obtained via a submission to the relevant Minister. This would normally be the Minister responsible for the subject matter. The submission sets out details of the request and the arguments for and against disclosure.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69272]

Mr Davey: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), said in response to my hon. Friend the Member for Southport (John Pugh), on 15 November 2010, *Official Report,* columns 615-6W, that the Government have announced a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector, including:

> a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;
>
> radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across Government; and
>
> the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management;

and that, in result, Departments would no longer be required to report against the previous Government's efficiency target.

In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), announced that the Efficiency and Reform Group's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010/11.

This impact was assessed using methodologies in the table. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented.

These savings are borne out in Department accounts. The table on page 79 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11 (HC1001) reports that non-pay Gross Administration Costs for BIS reduced from £187 million in 2009-10 to £140 million in 2010-11. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

Table—Activity and Calculation Method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence Base/Calculation*
Consulting	Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for Department Ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010/11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009/10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other Professional Services categories, including contingent labour.
Crown Commercial	Government has renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to Government.	The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent. This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in Memoranda of Understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports.
Contingent Labour	Government have significantly cut the number of temporary staff.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010/11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009/10.
Communications	Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed. Ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above.	Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010/11 with that for 2009/10.
Centralising Procurement	Government have started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation.	For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against an 2009/10 price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers.
ICT	We implemented: (a) a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million; and (b) a review of all on-going ICT commitments. Departments also reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review.	Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010/11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy.
Major Projects	We reviewed the Government's biggest projects to see where 2010/11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. We have halted or curtailed spend on four projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million Identity Cards—£50 million Highways Agency Projects—£54 million Whole Farm—£5 million We have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures, that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm.	HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the Major Projects related negotiations.

Table—Activity and Calculation Method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence Base/Calculation*
Property	We put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, we have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals.	Calculations are property by property based on the amount Departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to deliver the efficiency gains required by HM Treasury. [77042]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 27 October 2011]:* The 2010 spending review committed the Department to a 25% real-terms reduction in our budgets by 2014-15 to make our contribution to the Government's deficit reduction targets—a challenge BIS is already meeting through significant reductions in staff and the streamlining of our partner organisations.

During 2010-11 BIS and its partner organisations implemented the spending controls established by the Cabinet Office and Treasury in May 2010. These included tight controls over pay and recruitment, advertising and marketing spend, consultancy, ICT, estates and procurement. In particular the Department:

delivered £836 million of in-year savings as a contribution to the Emergency Budget announcement in June;

undertook work on public bodies reform—in particular the transition of responsibilities from the regional development agencies (RDAs) to successor bodies;

implemented new controls on marketing and consultancy spending, and a freeze on public sector pay in line with Cabinet Office guidance;

significantly reduced the administration budget for the Department, including partner organisations, with an 11% reduction in 2010-11;

reduced the number of staff within the core Department by 576 during 2010-11; and

as our Annual Report and Resource Accounts of 2010-11 show, staff costs were £12.7 million lower in 2010-11 than 2009-10 and other administration costs were £47.5 million lower in 2010-11 than 2009-10.

Cabinet Office guidance for the pay freeze was that there should be no pay increases for staff earning more than £21,000. The exception to this was cases where Departments had any legally-binding contractual commitments. BIS has been unable to create a single pay system as a result of the freeze and the pay arrangements of the legacy Departments apply. Staff on former BERR terms have a contractual pay arrangement and so received an award during the pay freeze. Staff on former DIUS terms did not.

Secondment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what senior representatives of the business sector have been seconded to work in his Department in the last 18 months. [75205]

Mr Davey: Eighteen months ago the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), introduced a freeze on all external recruitment—including secondments—into the civil service.

Since then, I have exceptionally agreed to the secondment into BIS of two individuals on very short term secondments and four individuals on medium term arrangements. I have done this in order to provide the Department with professional and financial expertise necessary to conduct the essential business of the Department and which did not already exist in sufficient quantity within the civil service.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75522]

Mr Davey: Since May 2010 to the end of September 2011, BIS (excluding UKTI and other Agencies) has spent the following amounts on first class travel:

	£
Air	0
Boat	0
Train	107,330

Spend on first class travel continues to fall in line with the Department's commitment to sustainable travel and as part of our cost reduction programme. As a comparison the data on first class travel for the last three financial years set out in the following table:

	£
Air	
2009/10	143,479
2010/11	0
2011/12[1]	0
Boat	
No spend recorded	—
Rail	
2009/10	387,949
2010/11	157,964
2011/12[1]	20,372

[1] To end September 2011.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78368]

Mr Davey: In the last 12 months the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not offered any unpaid or expenses-only internships.

Information on non-departmental public bodies (NDPB's) are not held centrally and will incur disproportionate costs. I have approached Departments and agencies and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Employment Tribunals: Reform

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made on reform of employment tribunals; and if he will make a statement. [78953]

Mr Davey: Earlier this year, the Government launched the 'Resolving Workplace Disputes' consultation, a significant step in the employment law review. This consultation sought views on measures to encourage the early resolution of disputes and ensure that, where parties do need to come to an employment tribunal, the process is as swift, user friendly and effective as possible. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has already confirmed the Government's intention to proceed with one of these measures; to extend the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims from one to two years and we will be publishing our Government response in the coming weeks, setting out other measures that we are intending to take forward, to deliver reform across the employment tribunal system.

Farepak

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects that the liquidation of Farepak will conclude. [79260]

Mr Davey: On 19 October 2011 the joint liquidators of Farepak issued reports to both creditors and agents on the progress of the liquidation. These reports refer to ongoing work being undertaken towards bringing legal proceedings against third parties with the objective of securing more money for creditors. Given the nature of the intended action I understand that it is not possible to provide an estimate on when the liquidation will be concluded.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on whether the claims management team for Farepak (in liquidation) have been informed of the death of any *(a)* agent and *(b)* customers of that firm. [79261]

Mr Davey: This Department does not hold this information. The liquidators' claims management team are responsible for updating any change of details of agents or customers, including where there is notification of death.

Hair Dyes: Chemicals

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the safety of para-phenylenediamine in hair dye products. [79045]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Para-phenylenediamine has been assessed several times over the last few years as part of the European Commission's hair dye strategy.

Insolvency

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses *(a)* were liquidated and *(b)* went into administration in each month since April 2011. [78685]

Mr Davey: Statistics on the number of *(a)* liquidations and *(b)* administrations in England and Wales and Scotland in each month from April to September 2011 are provided in Table 1 as follows. Official Statistics for Northern Ireland on a monthly basis are not available; figures for October 2011 are not yet available.

Table 1: Liquidations and administrations in England and Wales and Scotland[1]

	England and Wales		*Scotland*	
2011	*Number of liquidations*[2]	*Number of administrations*	*Number of liquidations*[2]	*Number of administrations*
April	1,187	219	86	21
May	1,542	214	128	19
June	1,547	262	134	21
July	1,582	256	90	16
August	1,283	235	124	19
September	1,275	182	106	17

[1] Source—Insolvency Service and Companies House.

[2] Compulsory liquidations and creditors' voluntary liquidations.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of amending section 233 of the Insolvency Act to prevent suppliers demanding payments upon insolvency where such payments make company rescue harder or reduce dividends to creditors. [79090]

Mr Davey: The Government have previously announced that we would consider the case for updating section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the wider issue of termination clauses. We are aware of the problems that can be caused for those seeking to rescue a struggling company by such clauses. We are currently looking into the merits of any change, and have been discussing this with interested parties.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to set a cap on the fees charged by insolvency practitioners. [79253]

Mr Davey: I confirm that I have no plans to bring forward proposals to cap the fees charged by insolvency practitioners, which are properly a matter for the creditors or the court.

However, the Government believe that it is important for creditors and others affected by insolvency to have confidence that the fees charged by insolvency practitioners are fair. For this reason, earlier this year the Government issued a consultation on a set of reforms, which included a proposal to introduce a non-court based mechanism for creditors to complain about the level of fees charged by insolvency practitioners.

This Department is currently reviewing responses to the consultation, and I hope to be in a position to make an announcement on the way forward shortly.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage greater transparency in the insolvency sector. [79254]

Mr Davey: Earlier this year the Government issued a consultation on a set of reforms to the regulation of insolvency practitioners, which included proposals to improve the transparency, consistency and accountability of the insolvency regulatory regime.

This Department is currently reviewing responses to the consultation, and I hope to be in a position to make an announcement on the way forward shortly.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average time taken to settle an insolvency case was in the latest period for which figures are available. [79255]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service does not record this information.

Following the introduction of the Enterprise Act 2002, administration has a statutory time limit of 12 months, although this may be extended with the permission of the court or by the agreement of creditors.

Liquidations do not have a statutory time limit, but research conducted by the Insolvency Service suggests that the average length of a liquidation is around two to 2.5 years.

The Enterprise Act 2002 also introduced a statutory 12-month time limit for bankruptcy, and provides for earlier discharge in some cases.

Insolvency Service: Finance

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget for the Insolvency Service has been in each financial year since 2000-01. [78684]

Mr Davey: Budget information for The Insolvency Service, an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, is published in the agency's annual corporate plan and is available from 2004-05 as follows:

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Official Receiver administration	55.8	68.0	72.5	122.4	135.0	155.1	130.2	93.2
Debt Relief Orders	—	—	—	—	—	1.9	1.8	2.5
Enforcement (net)	34,3	38.1	38.1	42.2	39.4	40.5	39.8	35.3
Redundancy Payments	—	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.2	11.8	9.8	9.2
Estate Accounting	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.0
Policy	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.6
Insolvency Practitioner Regulation	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.5
Other	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5	2.5	1.7	1.6	1.7
Total	95.5	121.0	125.4	181.5	190.9	217.3	189.1	146.5

Records are not available prior to 2004. The latest agency corporate plan can be viewed at:

www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency/about-us/strategy-and-planning

Insolvency: Complaints

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints have been received by the Insolvency Service in respect of insolvency practitioners and administrators in each of the last five years. [79258]

Mr Davey: The vast majority of insolvency practitioners are regulated by one of seven recognised professional bodies. Any complaint about the conduct of an insolvency practitioner is directed towards and dealt with by the appropriate recognised professional body.

Information regarding the number of complaints received by the recognised professional bodies is contained within the Insolvency Service's Annual Review of Insolvency Practitioner Regulation, which also includes complaints made directly to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), in relation to the small number of insolvency practitioners authorised directly by him.

The following information is available regarding the number of complaints recorded in the last five years including those relating specifically to administration:

	Total complaints	*Administration*
2006	468	81
2007	550	89
2008	618	181
2009	828	197
2010	531	129

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [76393]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills had 170 staff working in its legal section at the end of June 2011. Companies House had seven staff working in its legal department. There were 57 staff working in the legal departments of our non-departmental public bodies.

Staff in these Departments cover a number of roles including lawyers, paralegals, investigation offices and administrative support.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [76396]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was set up in 2009. The Department accesses legal advice from its own Departmental lawyers as well as from external counsel and solicitors, Treasury Solicitors and parliamentary counsel. Details of expenditure on internal and external legal advice for the Department since 2009 are set out as follows:

			Million
	2009/10	*2010/11*	*2011/12*[1]
Legal advice external	6.9	7.6	2.9
Instructing counsel[2]	0.5	0.8	0.4
Legal advice internal	5.0	4.7	2.1
Total[2]	11.9	12.3	5.0

[1] Data for this year covers the six month period April to September 2011

[2] Total = External + Internal advice. Counsel costs are within external advice figures.

The cost for counsel only includes the payments made directly by the Department. Information about the cost of counsel instructed by Treasury Solicitors on behalf of the Department could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not keep central records of the number of times it has been taken to court. The Department only keeps a record of open judicial review cases and there are currently 35.

Manufactured Goods: Origin Marking

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the launch of his Make it in Great Britain campaign, whether he plans to take steps to ensure that British-manufactured products are labelled as made in Britain. [79100]

Mr Prisk: There are no plans for the Make it in Great Britain campaign to cover the labelling of British-manufactured products.

The campaign will focus on transforming outdated opinions of UK manufacturing—highlighting Britain's outstanding manufacturing companies, large and small, and our world-beating companies' excellent reputation for innovation.

It is all part of the Government's drive to encourage long-term economic growth and rebalance the economy.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements are in place to ensure regional balance in his Department's expert and adviser groups. [75801]

Mr Prisk: There are no arrangements in place to ensure regional balance.

Appointments to these groups are made following processes which are fair, open and transparent, command public confidence and result in appointments which are made on merit.

Where there is a specific requirement for membership of certain groups to represent regions this will be implicit in the job specification when an appointment is advertised.

Regional Growth Fund

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when Stobart Group and Prologic will receive the funding allocated from round one of the Regional Growth Fund. [78948]

Mr Prisk: The Stobart Group and Prologis have told the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills that, subject to satisfactory completion of confirmatory due diligence, they intend to start to draw down their Regional Growth Fund allocations in January 2012.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether any of the recommended bids put forward for the second round of the Regional Growth Fund by the Independent Advisory Panel were amended by the Ministerial Group chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister; [79280]

(2) whether any of the recommended bids put forward for the second round of the Regional Growth Fund by its Independent Advisory Panel were rejected by the Ministerial Group chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. [79284]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Independent Advisory Panel's job is to advise Ministers on which bids to the Regional Growth Fund to support. Final decisions on which bids to support rest with the Ministerial Group chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on due diligence in respect of bids submitted to the Regional Growth Fund in each region. [79470]

Mr Prisk: It is for successful bidders to pay the cost of due diligence.

Supermarkets: Competition

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made towards the establishment of the Groceries Code Adjudicator; and what proposals he has for the powers of the post holder. [77577]

Mr Davey: The draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill has undergone pre-legislative scrutiny, and Parliament published the Government's response to the Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Select Committee report on 15 October 2011. We now aim to introduce a Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

The powers proposed for the adjudicator are set out in the draft Bill.

Trade: Developing Countries

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to *(a)* ensure that the Doha Round talks are completed and *(b)* secure an agreement on trade for developing countries by the end of 2012. [78821]

Mr Davey: While it is now clear that the full Doha Development Round will not be concluded in 2011, the Government are continuing to press for the best possible outcome at the 8th World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference in December this year. We are working closely with the European Commission, EU member states and other WTO members to ensure that there is a clear way forward for the Doha Round in 2012 which delivers trade liberalisation, strengthens the multilateral system and advances the interests of poor countries.

The Government have always been clear that development is a key priority of the Doha Round, and we have consistently emphasised this where possible.

We are disappointed that the proposed "early harvest" package focusing on issues for the least developed countries failed earlier this year, but we will continue to press for the best outcome possible for poor countries, including at the forthcoming WTO ministerial. We also continue to press for agreement for countries to live up to commitments made to advance the interests of poor countries, including by providing duty-free, quota-free access for least developed country exports.

The UK is supporting the poorest countries to achieve more balanced outcomes in international trade negotiations through the Trade Advocacy Fund. This major initiative will provide high-quality legal and technical advice, training and logistical support, and will help the poorest countries secure development outcomes in the Doha talks.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in the Government Equalities Office; and if she will make a statement. [77503]

Lynne Featherstone: As of 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office has been part of the Home Office and is no longer a separate Government Department. The information requested was provided by the Minister for Immigration, my hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in the Government Equalities Office use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of government business. [73200]

Lynne Featherstone: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct government business.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 9 November 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

GPT: Saudi Arabia

Helen Goodman: To ask the Attorney-General what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions he has had on allegations of corruption in the case of the GPT contract with Saudi Arabia. [79386]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officers and the directors of the Law Officers' departments speak regularly on a wide range of issues, including progress on high profile cases. We do not comment on what was discussed.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Attorney-General whether the Serious Fraud Office is investigating allegations of bribery involving GPT, the UK subsidiary of EADS. [79448]

The Attorney-General: The SFO can confirm that a number of allegations have been made against GPT Special Project Management Ltd and that these allegations are being considered by the SFO. The SFO has engaged with EADS, the parent company, on how these issues are to be addressed.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the UK's trial of the swabbing of religious and cultural headgear at airports. [78278]

Mrs Villiers: I have written to my EU counterparts and the European Commission setting out the cultural sensitivities of the screening of religious headgear, outlining the UK approach and encouraging them to put similar processes in place. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Bus Services: Finance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether her Department has assessed the potential effect on journeys to work of her Department's reduction in financial support for bus services in April 2011; [78941]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the level of bus services *(a)* in England, *(b)* in Cheshire, *(c)* in Merseyside and *(d)* nationally following her Department's funding reduction in April 2011. [78942]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport did not make any reductions in funding services effective from April 2011. However, following last year's spending review the Government announced that the rate at which Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) is paid to operators would be reduced by 20% from April 2012. At the time of the announcement, the Confederation of Passenger Transport, who represent the bus industry, indicated to me that, in general, this cut was manageable and would not result in a loss of services or a rise in fares.

Changes to individual bus services are a matter for bus operators and local transport authorities. The Government do not and cannot make an assessment of every individual change but are working with local transport authorities to get an overall picture.

The latest statistics on bus services can be found at the Department for Transport website and are updated periodically:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/buses/

East Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department has undertaken on replacing the *(a)* HST and *(b)* IC 225 rolling stock on the East Coast passenger rail franchise; and if she will publish the results of all such work. [78347]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* The previous Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), announced to the House on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 185-187, that the Department was resuming the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) procurement with Agility Trains as the preferred bidder, and officials are working to bring the contract to a financial close as soon as is practicable. The trains procured within the IEP replace high speed trains on the Great Western and East Coast Main Lines. There is an option within the contract to replace the IC225 trains on the East Coast Main Line. Officials also engage with East Coast Ltd on matters relating to their rolling stock.

It is not possible to publish details of this work for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Great Western Railway Line: Overcrowding

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of people who are required to stand on train services between London and Swindon because of a lack of capacity between *(a)* 7.00 am and 10.00 am and *(b)* 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm. [78401]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport would not routinely undertake an analysis of the number of people required to stand on a particular route, and figures are not available for services between London and Swindon.

Statistics showing the proportion of standard class passengers standing on a typical weekday in autumn 2010 on services arriving at London terminals during the morning peak (07:00 to 09:59) and on services departing from London terminals during the afternoon peak (16:00 to 18:59) are published by the Office of Rail Regulation in the National Rail Trends Yearbook. These include figures for London Paddington, to which services from Swindon travel, but the figures are for all routes into Paddington combined and are not disaggregated.

Under the terms of the franchise agreement with the Department, operators, in this case First Great Western, have an obligation to make best use of the trains they have to meet demand and provide the best passenger experience possible.

Railways: Standards

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of *(a)* the projected change in passenger numbers on rail services and *(b)* the number of carriages required to accommodate these numbers. [78351]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* A number of estimates have been made of the projected demand changes in passenger numbers on rail services. Projected demand figures were used in setting the outputs required to be delivered under the 2007 HLOS statement. Estimates of future demand continue to play a part in decisions made on HLOS programme for delivering additional carriages to relieve crowding. The overall number and deployment of carriages on the network are dependent on a range of factors managed by the rail industry and no total has been determined.

SCOTLAND

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

11. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Government is taking to help small and medium-sized enterprises to grow in Scotland. [78433]

Michael Moore: The Government fully recognise the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises to the Scottish economy.

We have put in place a wide range of measures under our Plan for Growth to ensure that Scottish SMEs, which are at the heart of our plans, are supported in their efforts to grow and export.

Businesses: Economic Environment

12. **John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Government plans to take to ensure a stable economic environment for businesses in Scotland. [78434]

David Mundell: The actions the Government took at the last spending review has brought stability, confidence, and the lowest interest rates in over 100 years to the UK economy. The Government's decisive action to tackle our deficit has put the UK ahead of the curve, and helped mitigate the risks that are weighing down on confidence elsewhere. The Government will stick to their course.

Apprenticeships

13. **Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on cross-border recognition of apprenticeship qualifications. [78435]

David Mundell: Apprenticeships are underpinned by vocational qualifications like SVQs and NVQs, which in turn are based on national occupational standards. National occupational standards are developed on a UK-wide basis in conjunction with employers.

Welfare Reform Bill

14. **Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the potential effects in Scotland of implementation of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill. [78436]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I are in contact with Scottish Ministers on this matter. Social security is a reserved matter, however a Legislative Consent Motion is required from the Scottish Parliament to cover some delivery aspects of the reforms in Scotland. I hope that through our ongoing dialogue Scottish Ministers will see the benefits of supporting a Legislative Consent Motion now.

Parliamentary Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79561]

David Mundell: Draft answers to parliamentary questions in the Scotland Office are routinely seen by the special adviser.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79559]

David Mundell: This information is not available in the form requested. However, the following table shows the number of named day parliamentary questions answered in each month:

	Answered on time	*Answered Late*
May 2010	—	—
June 2010	1	0
July 2010	25	5
August 2010	—	—
September 2010	20	2
October 2010	11	0
November 2010	40	0
December 2010	5	0
January 2011	3	0
February 2011	11	0
March 2011	14	1
April 2011	3	0
May 2011	12	0
June 2011	8	0

	Answered on time	*Answered Late*
July 2011	12	2
August 2011	—	—
September 2011	6	0
October 2011	6	0
Total	177	10

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79560]

David Mundell: None.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Unemployment: Females

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to reduce the level of female unemployment in Scotland. [78428]

David Mundell: The Government want to reduce unemployment whether it affects women or men, young or old, able-bodied or disabled people.

That is why we are taking action to create the environment for sustained economic growth, which is necessary for the creation of secure, sustainable jobs.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department plans to take to address levels of alcohol-related incidents resulting in deaths and personal injuries; [79124]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to reduce levels of alcohol-induced violence. [79119]

James Brokenshire: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"), introduced by this Government, rebalances the Licensing Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act") in favour of local communities. The new package of measures will give them the powers they need to reduce alcohol-related violence, deaths and personal injuries. They will make it easier for licensing authorities to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, premises that are causing problems.

The 2011 Act will, for example, extend the scope of Early Morning Restriction Orders, which are an additional tool for licensing authorities to reduce levels of alcohol-induced crime and promote public safety in their area by restricting alcohol sales late at night.

The Act also contains provisions which give licensing authorities the power to introduce a 'late night levy' in their area. This will mean that businesses which profit from supplying alcohol late at night make a contribution towards the costs of policing the late night economy.

It will also make licensing authorities and health bodies responsible authorities under the 2003 Act.

We will bring together the Government's approach on alcohol strategy (published by the Department of Health) later this year. It will address the full range of harm from alcohol and all those partners with a direct role to play in tackling them.

Asylum

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum seekers are resident in Ashton-under-Lyne constituency; in each year since March 2007; and how many such asylum seekers receive support from the National Asylum Support Service. [77396]

Damian Green: 130 legacy asylum seekers have been resident in Ashton-under-Lyne since March 2007, of these 40 cases have been identified as asylum seekers receiving support from the National Asylum Support Service.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('-'= 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
2. Figures were extracted on 26 October 2011.

Crimes of Violence: Nightclubs

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she plans to take to reduce the number of violent incidents involving glass bottles in nightclubs; [79106]

(2) whether she has made an assessment of the likely effect of a ban on glass bottles in nightclubs with a history of violent offences. [79105]

James Brokenshire: The Government recognise the importance of glassware bans in limiting alcohol-related violence and the harms it causes. We have taken steps, through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), to ensure that the police and licensing authorities have the powers they need to do impose them.

The Licensing Act 2003 allows licensing authorities (LAs) to impose conditions that promote public protection objectives, including the prevention of crime and disorder; and public safety. Bans on the use of bottles by customers; requirements for the use of safer alternatives to traditional glassware; and bans on customers exiting with glassware are common conditions. Other types of condition, such as those that require the use of security staff, or regular glass collections, can also reduce the potential for violent incidents involving glassware.

The 2011 Act put communities and the police in a much better position to prevent alcohol-related crime and disorder, including the imposition of conditions restricting glassware at specific premises. For example, the 2011 Act will lower the test that applies to LAs' decisions from

"necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives"

to

"appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives".

This will mean, for example, that if the police have a concern about a particular premises, due to its nature or history, they will be able seek the imposition of appropriate conditions. We do not consider that a ban on glass bottles should apply to all premises of a particular type, because we recognise that many premises operate responsibly, and without violent incidents.

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) between 17 and 21, (ii) between 22 and 24, (iii) between 25 and 30, (iv) between 31 and 35, (v) between 36 and 40 and (vi) over 41 years who were identified by a police force as having exceeded the speed limit opted to attend a driving safety course in lieu of penalty points in each police authority area in the last 12 months. [R] [78682]

James Brokenshire: This information is not collected centrally.

Licensing Laws: Olympic Games 2012

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to take steps to ensure that sufficient late night licences are made available to pubs and restaurants to enable visitors to the London 2012 Olympics to use their services. [78945]

James Brokenshire: Licensing hours are determined by local authorities under the Licensing Act 2003. Pubs and restaurants that already have a licence to open late will be able to open as they do now. Those that wish to open longer during the Olympics can do so by applying for an extension using a Temporary Event Notice (TEN). TENs are administered by local authorities and, under the current system, the police can object on crime and disorder grounds. We considered whether to use the powers available to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) under section 172 of the 2003 Act to make a licensing hours order in relation to the Olympics period. This would have allowed licensed premises to open for longer without needing a TEN. In consultation with the police and others, we decided it would not be appropriate to do so.

Sexual Violence

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Statements of 1 November 2011, on gang-related violence, which Department will be responsible for services for young victims of sexual violence and what the territorial extent is of her proposals. [78721]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office will be investing at least £1.2 million of additional resource over the next three years in improving services for young people under 18 suffering sexual violence in our major urban areas—with a new focus on the girls and young women caught up in gang related rape and abuse. This funding will commence in 2012-13. Further proposals for how funding will be distributed will be developed with the Home Office Sexual Violence Forum. A decision on which areas will be supported has therefore not yet been taken.

UK Border Agency: Training

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what new training initiatives to maintain expertise the UK Border Agency has undertaken in 2011. [78559]

Damian Green: There is a range of new and continuing training initiatives in the UK Border Agency to maintain operational skills, refresh and build on expertise, and increase the competence and capability of civil servants who deliver a service to the public. The subjects covered by new initiatives in 2011 have included, among others, asylum claims from minors; cases involving trafficking and torture victims; lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual applicants; family removals; and interview techniques.

Over 1,000 staff from across the Agency have been trained to enable them to undertake essential operational duties in the case of a critical incident. Training is also being given to existing and retired staff as well as others on loan from other Departments, to serve at the border control during the test and real events of the Olympics and Paralympics next year.

In addition, the UK Border Agency is continually strengthening the skills and behaviours of its leaders and managers through a range of learning and development activities; and all staff are required to undertake regular refresher training in relation to the protection of personal and sensitive data.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether *(a)* he, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78651]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), attended and spoke at the opening of the Wandsworth Museum on 1 September 2010, invited by Michael Hintze. He also attended a Victoria and Albert Museum dinner for

Raphael: Cartoons and Tapestries for the Sistine Chapel which was hosted by Dorothy and Michael Hintze on 6 September 2010.

The Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries (Mr Vaizey), had an informal meeting with Michael Hintze on 21 July 2011. He also accepted an invitation from Michael and Dorothy Hintze to attend a private reception and view of the Leonardo exhibition at the National Gallery on 14 November 2011.

No other Ministers or departmental officials have had meetings with Michael Hintze, Tony Buckingham, Michael Davis, Poju Zabludowicz, Jon Moulton or Stephen Crouch.

Broadband

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how he proposes that the recently announced £530 million to support the UK's broadband network will be allocated. [78558]

Mr Vaizey: I announced the allocation of funding to support roll-out of superfast broadband on the following dates: Wales on 12 July, Northern Ireland on 15 August and England and Scotland on 16 August 2011. Details of the allocations can be found on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) website, using the link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/telecommunications_and_online/7763.aspx

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79069]

John Penrose: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane) on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-28W.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to fill the position of chief scientific adviser in his Department. [78754]

John Penrose: This matter is still being considered. While we do so, the Department is supported in accessing expert scientific advice by its Evidence and Analysis Unit and Scientific Research Advisory Committee.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78888]

John Penrose: The Ministry of Justice publish quarterly statistics on the handling of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act in central Government. The information you have requested can be found within these publications, which are available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78889]

John Penrose: The information you have requested can be found in the following table:

Reason cited in FoI response	*Number*
Section 43 (commercial interests)	22
Information not held by the Department	159
Request exceeds cost limit	39
Request considered vexatious	[1]1

[1] This category applied to just one part of a request for various pieces of information.

Public Appointments

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of those appointed to public bodies sponsored by his Department who declared a political affiliation declared affiliation to the *(a)* Conservative and *(b)* Labour party between May 2010 and October 2011. [79087]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1252W.

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of appointments to public bodies sponsored by his Department were women in the period from May 2010 to October 2011. [79088]

John Penrose: The number of the Department's ministerial public appointments, including reappointments, made from 1 May 2010 to 31 October 2011, was 162, of whom 37% were female.

Information on the Department's individual public appointments is published on our website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/public_appointments/1006.aspx

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase the proportion of women on the boards of public bodies sponsored by his Department. [79135]

John Penrose: The Department has an established programme of work to encourage individuals from under-represented groups to apply for public appointments. This includes publicising vacant roles widely and running a number of targeted networking events each year for women and other potential applicants from diverse backgrounds to meet board members of the Department's arm's length bodies and officials, to learn more about public appointments and other opportunities within those bodies.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79583]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport aims to give all named day parliamentary questions a substantive reply on the specific named day.

The following table shows the details requested since May 2010:

	Total number of named day questions	*Answered on the named day*	*Answered within five days*	*Answered within 10 days*	*Answered within 20 days*	*Answered after 30 days*
2010						
May	2	2	0	0	0	0
June	15	11	4	0	0	0
July	34	21	7	4	2	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	17	17	0	0	0	0
October	27	17	8	1	1	0
November	38	30	8	0	0	0
December	41	37	1	0	2	1
2011						
January	45	33	10	0	0	2
February	49	40	8	0	0	1
March	62	38	23	1	0	0
April	26	16	7	2	1	0
May	45	35	9	0	0	1
June	60	48	12	0	0	0
July	73	63	9	0	0	1
August	1	1	0	0	0	0
September	22	20	1	0	0	1
October	54	50	4	0	0	0

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79584]

John Penrose: Since May 2010, in DCMS there have been no occasions where either ordinary written parliamentary questions or named day parliamentary questions have remained unanswered for a period of two months.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79585]

John Penrose: As part of the Department's processes, answers to parliamentary questions are initially approved by special advisers before they are cleared with the relevant Minister, who is ultimately responsible for answering.

Mobile Telephone Coverage

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to work with *(a)* Ofcom and *(b)* mobile telephone network operators to increase 3G phone signal coverage in (i) East Cleveland, (ii) Redcar and Cleveland and (iii) the North East. [79138]

Mr Vaizey: The Government recently announced that they were providing an additional £150 million to improve mobile phone coverage in the UK. The principal consideration when considering the optimal use of the £150 million for mobile masts will be to fill in not-spots in the national 2G mobile coverage and raise the coverage level to 99% and we will be working with Ofcom and other stakeholders to determine where best to site these new masts.

No decisions on locating masts have yet been made. In making those decisions, consideration will be given to the requirements of hosting other technologies such as 3G to improve the coverage of that technology too. Looking further in the future we envisage that 4G could be hosted on the new structures as well.

Olympic Games 2012: Voluntary Work

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will agree to publish by region the number of volunteers accepted for the Olympic Games when the process of recruitment is complete. [79327]

Hugh Robertson: There are a number of London 2012 related volunteer schemes in place. The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG)'s Games Makers scheme will recruit up to 70,000 volunteers, and is conducting 100,000 interviews across the United Kingdom, which will continue through until April 2012. The Greater London Authority's London Ambassador scheme will recruit up to 8,000 volunteers. There are also volunteer schemes in place in games venue cities at Cardiff, Coventry, Essex, Eton Dorney, Glasgow, Kent, Newcastle, Manchester, Surrey, and Weymouth and Portland. In addition the British Airports Authority, British Airways, Network Rail, the British Olympic Association and a number of local authorities are intending to run their own volunteer schemes connected to the games, either recruiting externally or redeploying existing staff. We are also aware that other local authorities are intending to use existing volunteer schemes to support games-related activity such as the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays. The publication of figures relating to the regional distribution of the volunteers recruited are a matter for each individual scheme, but it is clear that a number of opportunities exist for those across the entire UK to volunteer to support the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Radio Frequencies

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had to discuss the proposed auction of the 4G spectrum. [79627]

Mr Vaizey: My officials and I have regular meetings with Ofcom to discuss the 4G auction. Additionally, there have been meetings with all mobile operators and with Research in Motion (RIM), Intellect (a trade body that represents the telecommunications industry), British Entertainment Industry Radio Group, Intel, the Federation of Communication Services, Motorola, the Broadband Stakeholders Group and other Government Departments. The auction has also been discussed with the European Commission and officials from other countries. Meetings with these stakeholders have taken place on a number of occasions.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the revenue from annual licence fees forgone due to the time taken to hold the proposed auction of the 4G spectrum. [79651]

Mr Vaizey: I have made no assessment of foregone annual licence fees. Operators liable to pay these fees will do so at the current rates set by Ofcom, who will reassess these fees after the auction, as required by the Direction that came into force in December 2010.

Sign Language

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of British Sign Language interpreters in the UK. [78590]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has not commissioned any research into the numbers of British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters in the UK. According to the UK register of Sign Language Interpreters there are currently 682 BSL interpreters who meet the minimum standard required for commercial video relay provision ('Member of the Register' level). The register also lists 163 junior trainee interpreters and 114 trainee interpreters. The register is a public document available at:

http://portal.nrcpd.org.uk/search/

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [77656]

Maria Miller: The Government inherited a situation where, as a result of a failure of IT systems, two child maintenance schemes are running in parallel. Also, weaknesses in the IT systems mean around 100,000 cases have to be managed off the system. More than three million children live in separated families, but only around 50% of those benefit from an effective maintenance arrangement. In addition the annual running costs of the statutory maintenance scheme are approximately £450 million, on average a cost of around 40p for each £1 of child maintenance collected or arranged. This represents neither efficiency nor cost-effectiveness.

The consultation document published in January—'Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance'—outlines our assessment of some of the issues of the current system and sets out our plans for the radical reshaping of the child maintenance system. The Government's response to the consultation was published on 12 July.

We want to make it the norm in society that parents take responsibility for putting in place financial support for their children post separation. Research suggests that just over half of parents currently using the statutory maintenance scheme feel they could make their own financial arrangements for their children with the right help. For those families who cannot make a family-based arrangement, the Government are continuing to invest in a new streamlined child maintenance scheme to replace the existing CSA schemes in order to deliver a significantly improved service.

Employment Schemes: Contracts

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's risk assessment of Work programme contractors. [78257]

Chris Grayling: All organisations selected as Work programme contractors were required to satisfy the Department that they have the capacity, including the financial capacity, to implement and deliver their contracts. Individual assessments include commercially sensitive information that the Department cannot publish.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he proposes to take to ensure the Merlin Standard supports organisations named in successful prime provider bids for the Work programme but which have subsequently *(a)* been unable to agree a contract with the successful prime provider and *(b)* received no payments under a contract agreed with the successful prime provider. [79626]

Chris Grayling: The Merlin Standard™ is a Department for Work and Pensions and Welfare to Work industry developed standard of excellence in supply chain management.

The Merlin Standard provides a mechanism to measure that Primes are following through on the commitments signed up to with their supply chain partners; it does not directly set the parameters or define the content of those discussions.

DWP has implemented the Merlin Standard to ensure fair treatment of sub-contractors by prime providers. Providers will be penalised for non-compliance with the standard.

Employment: Disability

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to support people with learning disabilities into sustainable work; and if he will make a statement. [79208]

Maria Miller: The Government are committed to ensuring that all disabled people, including people with learning disabilities, have the opportunities, chances and support that they need to get a job and remain in employment.

For example, the Work programme, launched on 10 June 2011 is the biggest single Welfare to Work programme which will provide more personalised back-to-work support for unemployed people, including disabled people.

For disabled people with more complex needs which cannot be met through the Work programme, they can access Work Choice, which provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment, find and stay in work and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work choice contracted providers aim to help around 9,000 disabled people into work per annum. In addition to the contracted provision, Remploy Employment Services has a target to deliver 7,500 hob outcomes through Work Choice in 2011-12. Support can also be provided through Access to Work, Remploy and Residential Training.

In December 2010, the Government asked Liz Sayce, the chief executive of the disability organisation RADAR to undertake an independent review of specialist employment support for disabled people, specifically Remploy, Residential Training Colleges and the Access to Work programme. The Government's response and a separate public consultation was launched on 11 July 2011. I as the Minister for Disabled People welcomed the central theme of the review, that resources for supporting disabled people into employment should be focused on disabled people themselves rather than on specific institutions. The consultation closed on Monday 17 October 2011. We are currently analysing responses and will produce a summary of responses as soon as practicably possible.

DWP is also working with Department for Education through the SEN Green Paper to look at how we can improve transition from education to work, so that young people with special educational needs (including learning disabilities) are better prepared and supported when looking for employment.

Independent Living Fund

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to bring forward a replacement for the Independent Living Fund. [78611]

Maria Miller: The ILF is a discretionary trust and payments do not take precedence over the responsibility of the local authority to meet the eligible care and support needs of local people.

As announced in my written ministerial statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, we are committed to consulting on how current recipients of payments from the Independent Living Fund will be supported from 2015.

Major Projects Authority

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library any evaluation of his Department's programme conducted by the Major Projects Authority. [79151]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

There is currently no formal evaluation of the Greater London Authority (GLA) offender employment pilot projects.

Motability

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what savings he expects to accrue to his Department on expenditure on the higher rate mobility element as a result of recent changes announced to the Motability scheme. [78686]

Maria Miller: The criteria for receiving a Motability vehicle, is receipt of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance or war pensioners mobility supplement. Provided they have at least 12 months remaining of their award, recipients may choose to exchange all or part of that component for a Motability vehicle. Motability vehicles are therefore not supplied at public expense and Motability is largely self-financed.

This benefit remains payable whether or not the recipient chooses to lease a Motability vehicle, therefore changes made to the scheme by Motability will not have any impact on departmental expenditure.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he had with the trustees of Motability on the recent changes made to the scheme; and on what dates such discussions took place. [78688]

Maria Miller: Motability administer the Specialised Vehicles Fund on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. DWP officials meet with Motability to discuss the performance of the Specialised Vehicles Fund and the operation of the scheme more widely on a regular basis.

DWP Ministers also meet with Motability on occasion to ensure they remain well informed about a scheme which many recipients of the DLA mobility component rely upon.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation the trustees of Motability undertook with disabled people before introducing recent changes to the scheme. [78689]

Maria Miller: While this Department works closely with Motability, it is an independent charity and is wholly responsible the administration of the Motability scheme.

Specific questions relating to scheme policy or the operation of the scheme should be directed to Motability and can be sent to: Declan O'Mahony, Director, Motability, Warwick House, Roydon Road, Harlow, Essex CM19 5PX.

Motability have agreed to write separately to the right hon. Lady with such information as they have available regarding consultations they may have undertaken.

Personal Income

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate has been made of the average income of *(a)* social rental, *(b)* private rental and *(c)* all households in (i) each region of the UK, (ii) Dudley borough and (iii) Dudley North constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [78297]

Steve Webb: We use Households Below Average Income data to provide estimates of median incomes. However, the sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for Dudley borough and Dudley North constituency.

The following tables show the median equivalised disposable household income by tenure and for all households for the regions and countries of the United Kingdom, before and after housing costs.

Table 1: Median equivalised disposable household income, by tenure and for all households for the regions and countries of the United Kingdom, three year average 2007-08 to 2009-10, before housing costs

	Weekly median equivalised disposable household income (£)		
Region of the UK	*Social rented*	*Privately rented*	*All households*
North-east	286	315	360
North-west	296	338	377
Yorkshire and the Humber	290	328	370
East midlands	281	339	380
West midlands	288	342	380
East	305	391	429
London	317	491	462
South-east	310	426	462
South-west	308	378	407
Scotland	290	337	396
Wales	279	321	371
Northern Ireland	274	337	363

Table 1: Median equivalised disposable household income, by tenure and for all households for the regions and countries of the United Kingdom, three year average 2007-08 to 2009-10, before housing costs

Table 2: Median equivalised disposable household income, by tenure and for all households for the regions and countries of the United Kingdom, three year average 2007-08 to 2009-10, after housing costs

	Weekly median equivalised disposable household income (£)		
Region of the UK	*Social rented*	*Privately rented*	*All households*
North-east	227	243	326
North-west	230	249	343
Yorkshire and the Humber	229	249	331
East midlands	221	252	345
West midlands	220	260	342
East	235	295	383
London	219	315	382
South-east	228	306	408
South-west	236	270	358
Scotland	240	269	365
Wales	218	242	336
Northern Ireland	239	279	335

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year. For countries and regions within the UK, three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.
6. Weekly incomes are presented in 2009-10 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound.
7. Analysis has been carried out at the household level.
8. The estimates for all households include those households who are owner occupiers, as well as those in the social and privately rented sector.

Source:
Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 2007-08 to 2009-10

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Coastal Areas: Access

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Natural England plans to provide for coastal paths in each of the next three years. [79212]

Richard Benyon: Natural England is responsible for the delivery of the right of coastal access under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. It has estimated that the costs to deliver coastal access at Weymouth and in the five lead stretches where it has started work will be £34,000, £40,000 and £165,000 in the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively.

These estimated costs include payments to access authorities for their contribution to the delivery of coastal access (principally staff time), and the physical establishment of the coastal route, such as the costs of gates, steps and signs. There will be additional costs of Natural England staff involved in delivering the Weymouth stretch and the other five lead stretches.

Japanese Knotweed

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to prevent the spread of Japanese knotweed. [75476]

Richard Benyon: A controlled release of the highly specialist psyllid Aphalara itadori is currently under way to help control Japanese knotweed. If successful, this should restrict its growth, slow its capacity to spread vigorously and enhance the effectiveness of management effort.

Because of its invasive nature Japanese knotweed is listed on Schedule 9 and subject to section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it an offence to plant, or cause this species to grow, in the wild.

Under cross-compliance rules, farmers in receipt of the single farm payment are required to take reasonable steps to prevent its spread.

Japanese knotweed is regarded as controlled waste and as such its disposal is governed by waste disposal regulations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Animal Experiments

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if his Department will consult local planning officials on B&K Universal's plans for a new beagle breeding facility and the requirements for establishments and for the care and accommodation of animals in Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. [79360]

Robert Neill: B&K Universal Ltd's planning application to expand its animal breeding facilities at Grimston Park near Hull was refused by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council in June and an appeal lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. Because the proposals have given rise to substantial regional or national controversy the appeal will be decided by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles). He will take into account all material considerations before coming to his decision.

Audit Commission

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what budget headings he expects the estimated savings resulting from the abolition of the Audit Commission to be made. [77293]

Robert Neill: The abolition of the Audit Commission will benefit local authorities directly by removing the need for a "topslice" of audit fees to fund the commission's corporate centre, as well as ending government grants allocated to the commission to undertake certain other functions. The abolition of burdensome inspection, such as comprehensive area assessment, is already saving taxpayers money. Further detail on savings and costs will be included in the impact assessment accompanying the draft legislation that we intend to publish in due course.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Audit Commission has made of the cost of its abolition arising from *(a)* redundancy payments, *(b)* pension liabilities, *(c)* lease termination and *(d)* other costs. [77294]

Robert Neill: The details will be included in the impact assessment accompanying the draft legislation that we intend to publish in due course.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80063]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally and to assemble it would entail disproportionate cost.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78891]

Robert Neill: Figures at the level of detail requested for Freedom of Information requests by month are not readily available because our systems are designed to report on a quarterly basis. Quarterly figures for departmental performance in granting or refusing requests and timeliness of handling are published by Ministry of Justice on its website. The statistics for each quarter of 2010 and the first quarter of 2011 can be found in reusable form in tables 1, 2 and 3 at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

and those for the second quarter of 2011 at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

Ministry of Justice will publish corresponding figures for the third quarter of 2011 later this year or early in 2012.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [74995]

Robert Neill: The Department spent £113,308 on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2009-10; this was reduced to £93,601 in 2010-11, and my Department is taking further steps to reduce administrative spending across the board.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 530W, outlining how Ministers have consolidated seven separate sets of newspapers and how the Department has reduced the cost of the press cuttings services compared to the level of spending under the last administration.

Departmental Regulations

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses; [65318]

(2) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed since 1 September 2010; what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was; and what regulations have been excluded from the one-in one-out system because they address (i) emergencies and (ii) systemic financial risks since 1 September 2010; [65335]

(3) how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65352]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood), on 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 304-05W; my answer to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 911-12W; and my answer to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) on 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 777-80W.

More detail on the impact, or lack of regulatory impact, of statutory instruments can be found in their associated Explanatory Memorandum, which are available in the public domain at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi

Statutory instruments should not necessarily be viewed as regulations—they are pieces of secondary legislation which ensure policy and functional measures have parliamentary oversight.

I also refer him to my Department's Statement of New Regulation of September 2011, which outlines measures to reduce the burdens on business by an estimated £4.26

million per year:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/secondstatementregulation2011

Capabilities Programme

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many full-time equivalent staff work on the *(a)* regional response and *(b)* site clearance workstream of the Capabilities programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters; [79595]

(2) who the lead Minister in his Department is for the *(a)* regional response and *(b)* site clearance workstream of the Capabilities programme; [79596]

(3) what the budget was for the regional response workstream of the Capabilities programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79597]

Robert Neill: I am the Minister for Fire and Resilience in the Department. Following the closure of the Government offices for the regions on 31 March 2011, the functions of the former regional resilience teams transferred to the Resilience and Emergencies Division in my Department. The division comprises 53 FTE staff (which can be augmented by volunteers from elsewhere in the Department when necessary). This is approximately 20% fewer staff than employed in the former regional resilience teams, but provides the same Government support to local responders in emergency preparedness and response (the 'regional response capability'), as well as continuing to discharge the Department's lead Government Department responsibilities. This includes the site clearance workstream. It is not possible to apportion staff time to individual workstreams as at any one time resilience advisers will be contributing to the full range of workstreams in the Capabilities programme according to the risks faced in a given locality. There is no budgetary provision for specific workstreams.

Ex-servicemen: Finance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statutory funding his Department provides for veterans' organisations. [77154]

Grant Shapps: There is no statutory funding that my Department is obliged to provide to veteran organisations, although a number of measures have been put in place to support serving and ex-service personnel and their families.

We are improving access to housing for service personnel. We have ensured that members of the armed forces are placed at the top of the priority list for Government funded home ownership schemes. For example, FirstBuy homes became available in September and members of the armed forces are already being helped through the scheme to purchase a home of their own.

Government are also working with the credit reference agencies and the Royal Mail on standardising British Forces Post Office addresses, so that service and ex-service personnel who serve overseas or previously lived on army bases with non-standard British Forces Post Office addresses, are not disadvantaged when applying for a mortgage.

We plan to consult on proposals to ensure that former service personnel who have urgent housing needs are always given high priority for social housing—so they will be at, or near the top, of any waiting list—and that service personnel who move from base-to-base do not lose their qualification rights. We also plan to consult on statutory guidance to local authorities on the allocation of social housing, setting out the different ways in which provision can be made in councils' allocation schemes for all serving, or former, service personnel to be given appropriate priority, including using local preference criteria and local lettings policies.

Through the Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness we are tackling homelessness among ex service personnel. We have put measures in place to ensure there is better working across Government and with the Voluntary and Community Sector to support those veterans experiencing homelessness many years after discharge. We will be working closely with the new Veterans' Information Service and the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency to promote the through-life support available to former members of the armed forces.

The Government have also doubled the level of council tax relief (to 50%) given to military personnel serving on operations overseas.

Fire Services: Pensions

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's latest analysis is of the financial viability of the Fire Service Pension Scheme. [79192]

Robert Neill: The most recent actuarial valuation of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (1992) and the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (2006) in England found that the total liability for all accrued benefits was £13.8 billion as at 31 March 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/ActuarialValutaionGADReport.pdf

In the two firefighters' pension schemes, the deficit between scheme income and expenditure in 2008-09 was £259 million; in 2009-10 it was £302 million; whilst un- audited data received for 2010-11 show that this has fallen to £296 million due to a reduction in one-off commutation lump sum expenditure of £38.4 million:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/19559041.pdf

The current reforms to public service pensions proposed by the Government, and being considered in scheme specific discussions, will bring about long-term sustainability and fairness, and will rebalance costs between public sector workers and other taxpayers.

Housing Benefit

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology he plans to use to calculate surplus bedrooms in respect of his planned changes to housing benefit eligibility; and how often he plans to make such an assessment. [78493]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The level of under-occupation used to assess housing benefit for working-age claimants living in the social rented sector will be based on the local housing allowance size criteria used for assessing the level of housing benefit in the private rented sector.

The number of bedrooms in properties in the social rented sector is designated by the landlord (registered provider or housing association) or local housing authority. This is intended to be used to determine the size of a property.

As now, claimants will be expected to notify any changes in household composition so that the size criteria assessment can be reviewed as appropriate.

Housing Benefit: Foster Care

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effects on foster carers of the loss of housing benefit from April 2013 for those in social housing who have surplus bedrooms. [78494]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Government estimates that there are less than 5,000 foster carers under the age of 60, living in the social rented sector and in receipt of housing benefit. Figures from a survey undertaken by the Fostering Network during 2010 suggested that there were around 2,000 foster carers living in the social rented sector. The extent to which the April 2013 changes will affect individual foster carers will depend on their response to how they meet any shortfall, which is not possible to predict.

In some circumstances local authorities may decide to make discretionary housing payments to help meet any shortfalls.

Public Sector Land

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to dispose of disused public sector land and empty offices. [79199]

Grant Shapps: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 584, to my hon. Friend the Member for Southend West (Mr Amess), where I set out how we are leading an ambitious cross-Government programme to release surplus public land for up to 100,000 homes over the spending review period, using our innovative Build Now, Pay Later model wherever possible, so that house builders pay for the land only after homes are built.

Alongside this we have also been running the Capital and Assets Pathfinder programme to make better use of public sector assets, and to improve transparency we have brought land and property data from a number of public organisations together on one website. Through our new Community Right to Reclaim Land, we are enabling communities to get underused public property back in use. And to make it easier to turn vacant offices into new homes we have consulted on removing the planning approval requirement for changing use from a commercial property to a residential property.

Local Government: Maladministration

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many maladministration cases in which the local government ombudsman's decision has been challenged have been referred to the courts in each of the last 10 years. [76714]

Robert Neill: Since 2006 there have been a total of 52 formal challenges to the ombudsman's decisions by way of application for judicial review in the High Court.

By year, these formal challenges numbered as follows:

	Judicial review application
2006	14
2007	11
2008	8
2009	6
2010	9
2011	4

In addition, the local government ombudsman's annual report for 2004-05 states that:

> "In 2004-05 there were seven cases of judicial review. There was no fault by the Ombudsman found in any of these cases. (Figures for 2003-04 were identical, seven cases with no fault found.)"

No data are available for years prior to 2003-04.

Local Government: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the participation rate was for local government pension schemes in each pay band in each year from 2006 to 2010. [79527]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally.

Parishes: Expenditure

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total expenditure of civil parishes in *(a)* Teesside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England was between May 2010 and May 2011; and what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of such authorities. [79139]

Robert Neill: No data are held centrally on the expenditure of parishes.

Details of the parish precepts levied in Teesside, the North East and England in 2011-12 are shown in the following table.

	Parish precepts (£000)
Teesside[1]	1,160
North East	17,684
England	367,348

[1] Teesside consists of the unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

The data were collected on the Budget Requirement (BR1) forms submitted annually by all billing authorities in England.

It is for each parish council to put in place arrangements to secure value for money, for which they are accountable to their own local electorate. Government make no assessment of the cost-effectiveness of parish councils.

Planning System

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when his Department plans to respond to its Issues Paper consultation on change of use in the planning system; [79428]

(2) how many responses his Department received to its issues paper consultation on change of use in the planning system. [79429]

Robert Neill: The Issues Paper was not a formal consultation and did not contain any firm Government proposals. Its purpose was to stimulate debate and encourage all those with an interest to put forward their thoughts and ideas on how change of use should be handled in the planning system in the future.

It was part of a wider call for evidence on this subject which also included discussions with key partners and other Government Departments.

The views put forward in response to this call for evidence will help inform our decisions on how best to take forward policy development in this area in the future.

Sleeping Rough

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how his Department counts the number of rough sleepers; and how the counting method has changed since May 2010. [78806]

Grant Shapps: There were serious deficiencies with the rough sleeping counts undertaken by the last Administration, under-estimating the true level of rough sleeping. In September 2010 the Government overhauled the way local areas assess the number of people sleeping rough with the introduction of a more accurate assessment that provides a snap shot of the number of rough sleepers on a given night made up of improved street counts and robust estimates. This provides a national picture of rough sleeping with information from every local authority.

The Government are committed to tackling rough sleeping and preventing homelessness. We have maintained the level of Homelessness Grant, with £400 million for local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next four years. A cross-departmental Ministerial Working Group has been set up to address the complex causes of homelessness and improve support for homeless people. We also recently announced £42.5 million for the Homelessness Change Programme which will provide in excess of 1,500 new and improved bed spaces to improve hostels for rough sleepers and ensure that those coming off the streets get the support they need.

Social Rented Housing

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of social housing units occupied by people earning over £100,000 a year. [79226]

Grant Shapps: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Warrington North (Helen Jones) on 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 256W.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the level of rent that may be charged for a property purchased by *(a)* a local authority and *(b)* a housing association that was previously privately owned. [79645]

Grant Shapps: If a local authority or housing association property is covered by the existing social housing 'rent restructuring' policy we would expect a target rent to be charged in line with that policy. The policy is set out in 'A Guide to Social Rent Reforms' 2003 available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/139187.pdf

Sustainable Development

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he proposes that the presumption in favour of sustainable development will apply where a local authority has in place a local community plan. [70737]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The presumption in favour of sustainable development, set out in the draft National Planning Policy Framework, would reinforce the role of the statutory development plan for an area, including any neighbourhood plans made once the relevant provisions in the Localism Bill come into force. The presumption indicates that proposals in line with those plans should expect to be swiftly approved.

Wind Power

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he plans to take into account differences between planning applications for domestic and non-domestic wind turbines in setting the noise limit for the non-domestic general permitted development order; [79418]

(2) if he will assess the consequences of setting the noise limit threshold for non-domestic wind turbines below 45 decibels for *(a)* investment and *(b)* the number of suitable wind turbine sites. [79420]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to supporting the uptake of renewable energy and low carbon technologies. We have recently announced that permitted development rights for installations of wind turbines on domestic properties in England will be introduced on 1 December 2011. We are currently reviewing the scope for permitted development rights for microgeneration installations on non domestic premises—taking account of impacts, including noise. We will announce our intentions for England in due course. Planning in Scotland is a devolved matter.

TREASURY

Carer's Allowance

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the length of the carer's allowance claim form. [78270]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The carer's allowance claim form is currently 28 pages long and it collects essential information in order to determine a carer's allowance claim. It is reviewed regularly in order to ensure it is appropriate and relevant.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79078]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury has not issued any grants to charitable organisations in the last five years.

Loans: Republic of Ireland

Mr Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 572-3W, on loans: Republic of Ireland, (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the notification he gave to his Irish counterpart; [79120]

(2) whether the reduced interest rate will apply to the first tranche of the loan disbursed on 14 October 2011; and whether the reduced rate will be backdated; [79121]

(3) for what reason the reduction in the European Financial Stability Facility interest rate enabled the UK to cut the interest rate to its loan to Ireland; [79122]

(4) whether the change in the risk of Irish default since January 2011 is a criterion in deciding the revised interest rate. [79123]

Mr Hoban: Following the 21 July 2011 agreement by euro area member states to reduce the interest rates applied to loans from the euro area-only European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 22 July telephoned the Irish Finance Minister, Michael Noonan, to notify him of the Chancellor's decision in principle to lower the interest rate on the UK's bilateral loan. As Parliament was in recess, the Chancellor wrote to the Chairs of the Public Accounts Committee and the Treasury Select Committee the same day, to notify them of his decision in principle. In view of the bipartisan support for the loan to Ireland, the letters were copied to the Shadow Chancellor.

The Chancellor took the view that, until this point, the UK had been unable to lower the interest rate on its loan to Ireland without effectively subsidising the higher interest rates applicable to the EFSF. Changing the rate now ensures that all of the benefit goes to Ireland and not to higher interest rates paid to euro area governments.

The new interest rate is yet to be agreed. In the course of that process, the Government will take into account all relevant criteria, including the need to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. The Government will still be covering the cost of its borrowing. The lower rate will be applied retrospectively to those tranches of the loan that have already been disbursed, including that disbursed on 14 October.

Metal Theft

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the economy of disruption consequent on metal theft. [79415]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury has made no direct assessment of the costs. The true cost of metal theft is difficult to ascertain, However third party organisations have estimated costs ranging from £220 million to £770 million a year.

Public Expenditure

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Statement of 1 November 2011, on gang-related violence, what the Barnett Formula consequentials are for *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [78722]

Danny Alexander: Contributions towards tackling the key problems highlighted in the report on gang and youth violence are being funded from within existing Departments' provision and therefore do not attract any Barnett consequentials.

Public Sector Pensions

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional cost to the public purse in cash terms will arise from the increase in accrual rates for public sector pensions announced on 2 November 2011. [79450]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 8 November 2011]*: On 2 November 2011 I announced an increase in the accrual rate in the Government's preferred scheme design for public service pension reform, from 1/65ths to 1/60ths. This is an 8% cost increase.

Revenue and Customs

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs offices there were in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; and how many staff there were at each such office in each such year. [79104]

Mr Gauke: Information relating to the number of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office buildings within England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland prior to April 2001 can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

The number of office buildings in HMRC and its predecessor Departments (HM Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue) for each year since 2001 and split by the constituent parts of the United Kingdom is shown in the following table.

As at 1 April each year	*England*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*Total office buildings*
2001	584	28	73	23	708
2002	571	28	71	25	695
2003	541	27	69	25	662
2004	526	27	66	24	643
2005	505	27	62	23	617
2006	483	27	61	23	594
2007	465	25	60	21	571
2008	442	25	59	19	545
2009	426	25	57	19	527
2010	357	22	51	16	446

As at 1 April each year	*England*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*Total office buildings*
2011	395	25	53	14	487

Information relating to the number of staff within each individual HMRC office building from 1997 to 2011 can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

The number of staff in HMRC and its predecessor Departments in England, Wales Scotland and Northern Ireland for each year since 2000 is shown in the following table. The office address data for 1997 to 1999 is incomplete and, as a result, these years have been excluded from the breakdown by country.

	England	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*Overseas/ Homeworkers*	*Total headcount*
1 April						
1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	77,824
1998	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	78,278
1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85,358
2000	75,772	4,556	7,886	2,078	91	90,383
2001	76,806	4,680	7,920	2,165	108	91,679
2002	78,054	4,552	8,146	2,161	263	93,176
2003	83,996	5,386	9,863	2,529	136	101,910
2004	87,209	5,287	10,461	2,675	378	106,010
2005	85,928	5,005	10,711	2,693	337	104,674
2006	81,855	4,860	11,415	2,513	95	100,738
2007	77,264	4,872	11,464	2,480	431	96,511
2008	72,619	4,523	11,018	2,364	437	90,961
2009	70,676	4,525	11,160	2,257	257	88,875
31 March						
2010	61,767	4,139	10,031	2,089	31	78,057
2011	58,580	3,888	9,860	2,012	41	74,381

Tax Avoidance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to prevent FTSE 100 companies from avoiding taxation through the use of overseas tax havens. [78947]

Mr Gauke: The Government are working to ensure that the UK is a good place to do business. But being open for business does not mean being open to tax avoidance, and we have set out a strategic approach to address avoidance. This is supported by HMRC's anti-avoidance strategy which puts the emphasis on prevention of avoidance through robust legislation and deterrence, backed up by accurate detection and robust action where avoidance does occur.

The Controlled Foreign Company (CFC) rules prevent multinational companies artificially diverting profits from the UK to low tax territories. The Government are introducing a modernised CFC regime which will prevent artificial diversion of UK profits while reflecting changes to the way in which businesses operate in a global economy.

In relation to other HMRC activities within the anti-avoidance strategy to address the use of tax havens, I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 736W.

VAT: Metals

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of instructing HM Revenue and Customs to carry out co-ordinated checks on scrap metal merchants to check *(a)* any irregularities in cash payments, *(b)* value added tax registrations and *(c)* the reconciliation of the quantity of metal reprocessed by a merchant with the sum remitted in value added tax. [78704]

Mr Gauke: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) carries out the types of checks suggested in the question as part of its regular programme of activity to address tax non-compliance across all trade sectors including the scrap metal industry.

On 7 November HMRC launched a taskforce in Scotland to specifically address businesses indicating a high risk of tax evasion within this trade sector. HMRC will be visiting around 250 scrap merchants in a joint operation with British Transport police and local police forces. The results from this taskforce will help inform HMRC's future decisions on resource deployment across the UK as a whole in respect to scrap metal merchants and the industry supply chain.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80059]

Charles Hendry: Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the Department's website.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79084]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was established in October 2008. For 2008-09, records of DECC's grants are held on the accounting systems of predecessor Departments (the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills). They can only be retrieved and analysed at disproportionate cost.

The value of grants paid directly by DECC to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) as a whole from 2009-10 onwards are shown in the following table. DECC's accounting system does not specifically identify registered charities. Most of these grants were made paid through the low carbon buildings programme which was scaled back in 2010-11 and closed on 31 March 2011. This reflects a policy decision to promote energy efficiency and low carbon technologies through market mechanisms such as levies on energy bills.

In addition, charities are free to apply for grant schemes funded by DECC and run by DECC's delivery partners such as the Carbon Trust. Details of DECC funded grants paid by third parties can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Period	*Amount (£ million)*
2009-10	17.1
2010-11	6.2
1 April to 30 June 2011	1.0
Total	24.2

Telephone Helplines

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last five years. [77717]

Gregory Barker: The following table sets out the telephone lines funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, their purpose and where readily identifiable, their cost and number of calls handled.

Helpline	*Costs 2011-12*	*Purpose*	*Number of calls*
DECC Enquiry Line and night duty office	£89,000	Provides an initial point of telephone contact for all public enquiries, at any time of day, routing these to the appropriate part of the Department.	BIS Enquiry Unit—energy related calls: January 2009 to December 2009 = 8,700 January 2010 to December 2010 = 11,465 January 2011 to date = 9,614 BIS Night Duty Calls: April 2009 to March 2009 = 432 April 2010 to March 2010 = 391 April 2011 to date = 254 Climate change related calls—Global Crossing: August to December 2010 = 7,500 January to October 2011 = 10,979
DEFRA Shared Services Directorate HR helpline	£58,000	HR helpline for staff run by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who provide payroll services to DECC.	1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011 = 2,688 Prior to November 2010, HR services were provided by both DEFRA and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Calls relating to DECC staff can only be disaggregated from the host department at disproportionate cost.
National Concessionary Fuel Office (NCFO) enquiry line	No disaggregated figure available—the helpline is paid for as part of the overall NCFO service	Provides an enquiry service for former British Coal employees regarding their entitlements (where eligible) to benefit under the National Concessionary Fuel Scheme.	2006-07 = 65,062 2007-08 = 52,500 2008-09 = 47,216 2009-10 = 44,051 2010-11 = 38,722
Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) help-lines	No designated funding as it was contained in the general LCBP budget	Operated until July 2011. Fielded general enquiries, such as the possibility of exchanging LCBP grants for Feed-In Tariffs.	No data available. The scheme has closed and the programme team has disbanded.

Helpline	*Costs 2011-12*	*Purpose*	*Number of calls*
Confidential employee helpline	No disaggregated figure available—the helpline is paid for as part of a wider overall service	Provides a telephone and e-mail helpline related to personal issues including managing stress, personal work problems, counselling, bereavement, family issues and career discussions as part of a wider Employee Assistance Scheme.	Between 1 March 2011 to 30 September 2011 received 23 calls from DECC staff. Prior to that date, DECC used a contract held by BIS. Calls relating to DECC staff can be disaggregated from the host department only at disproportionate cost.
Combined Heat and Power helpline	£96,000	Provides e-mail, electronic and telephone support and guidance to industry on technical development and quality assurance of Combined Heat and Power projects.	2006-07 = 909,608 2007-08 = 1,171,506 2008-09 = 1,301,250 2009-10 = 1,283,804 2010-11 = 992,595 2011 to date = 282,949
Oil and Gas Portal helpdesk	c.£125,000 for regulatory issues plus c.£60,000 for environmental issues	Provides helpdesk and industry support for the Portal, which conducts all oil and gas regulatory business processes electronically, including environmental aspects.	2011 to date = 2,107[1, 2] 2010 = 3,255[1, 2] 2009 = 3,758[1, 2] 2008 = 3,071[1, 2] 2007 = 3,003[1, 2]
Electricity Portal helpdesk	c.£90,000	Provides helpdesk and industry support for the Portal, which issues consents for overhead lines, compulsory purchases	—[1, 2]
Energie Helpline	No disaggregated figure available—the helpline is paid for as part of the overall Energie service	Provides support and advice to UK companies and research organisations bidding for EU energy technology research, development and demonstration funding.	Average of 140 direct telephone calls per year as a part of a much wider service.
Warm Front helpline	No disaggregated figure available—the helpline is paid for as part of the overall Warm Front service	Provides advice about all aspects of the Warm Front scheme.	2011 to date = 282,949 2010 = 992,595 2009 = 1,283,804 2008 = 1,301,250 2007 = 1,171,506

---

[1] Indicates brace.

[2] Covering oil and gas and electricity.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010; [79580]

(2) how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010; [79581]

(3) whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79582]

Gregory Barker: The information requested is as follows:

Special advisers have the opportunity to comment on draft answers. Ministers always have the final sign off and approval of draft answers.

	Written parliamentary questions		*Named day questions*	
	Total number of questions	*On time*	*Total number of questions*	*On time*
2010				
May	15	12	2	0
June	111	74	17	11
July	239	178	19	11
August	3	3	0	0
September	82	59	19	11
October	152	130	12	10
November	187	144	31	20
December	137	116	19	14
2011				
January	187	172	42	40
February	178	148	29	27
March	233	202	67	58
April	92	88	32	30
May	118	111	37	37
June	247	201	25	24
July	199	191	30	27
August	82	82	1	1

	Written parliamentary questions		*Named day questions*	
	Total number of questions	*On time*	*Total number of questions*	*On time*
September	84	78	17	17
October	182	147	62	44

The Department does not hold this information in the format requested and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Since May 2010, the Department has not on any occasion had any parliamentary questions remain unanswered beyond 20 sitting days.

Electricity Generation

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of phantom megawatts on the security of the national electricity supply; [79663]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to audit the use of publicly-owned generators by short-term operating reserve aggregators; [79664]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of phantom megawatts purchased by National Grid in the last year; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such purchases on the electricity prices paid by consumers in the last year. [79665]

Charles Hendry: The system operator, National Grid, procures balancing services in order to balance demand and supply and to ensure the security and quality of electricity supply across the GB transmission system. These balancing services include Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR).

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has not assessed, audited or monitored the performance of STOR providers, or the participation of publicly-owned generators in STOR. National Grid has contracts, monitoring processes and penalties in place to minimise the risk of paying for capacity that cannot deliver when required. In addition Ofgem places commercial incentives on National Grid to ensure it balances the system efficiently and provides value for consumers, which they assess regularly.

Feed-in Tariffs: Business

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many businesses have submitted a request for accreditation for a feed-in tariff licence since April 2010; [79332]

(2) if he will estimate the number of firms submitting a request for accreditation for a feed-in tariff licence in each year between 2010 and 2015. [79333]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 8 November 2011]*: Since the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme started in April 2010, 20 licensed electricity suppliers have been registered as FITs suppliers.

In the same period, 3,226 installation companies have been certificated to install microgeneration equipment that could be eligible for FITs under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). Of these, 3,057 are companies which install solar photovoltaics (PV).

It is not possible to provide estimates for future years.

Feed-in Tarrifs: Renewable Energy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* households and *(b)* companies are receiving the feed-in tariff. [79985]

Gregory Barker: On 8 November 2011, the Ofgem central FIT register showed a total of 96,347 installations registered for FITs are classified as domestic across all technologies. There are 1,688 installations registered for FITs which are classified as commercial and industrial installations across all technologies.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's budget for the feed-in tariff scheme is. [79987]

Gregory Barker: The Department spending envelope for the Feed-in Tariff (FITs) scheme is:

	FITs (£ million)
2011-12	80
2012-13	161
2013-14	269
2014-15	357

This information is published on our website in a question and answer document which details the spending envelope for all the DECC levies-funded policies and can be viewed at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/funding-support/fuel-poverty/3290-control-fwork-decc-levyfunded-spending.pdf

Solar Power

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the contribution of the solar industry to gross domestic product. [79098]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

HM Government have made no estimates of solar industry contribution to gross domestic product.

However, independent research commissioned by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills estimates that photovoltaic renewable energy (i.e. solar power) together with its supply chain resulted in nearly £5 billion of sales in 2009-10, employing 39,000 across 2,000 businesses.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the commercial viability of the solar panel industry. [79289]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 8 November 2011]*: The impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) estimates that new solar PV installations will continue to come forward under the proposed changes to FITs for solar PV. The number of installations is expected to be around 30,000 per year for the rest of the spending review period.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 34 of his Department's consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 1—Tariffs for Solar PV, published on 31 October 2011, whether his Department has made an estimate of the cost of *(a)* the solar panels and *(b)* the installation process for solar PV. [79033]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment supporting the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) sets out estimates of PV installation costs for different sizes of installations. These estimates reflect both the costs of solar panels and costs of the installation process. They are based on a report from Cambridge Economic Policy Associates and Parsons Brinckerhoff which was published alongside the impact assessment and is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3365-updates-to-fits-model-doc.pdf

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect of reducing feed-in-tariff levels for solar electricity on *(a)* future levels of solar power installation and *(b)* the likelihood of achieving the target to generate 20 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources by 2020. [79095]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment supporting the Government's consultation on proposed changes to FITs for solar PV estimates that, by 2020, there will be around 1 to 2 TWh generation from solar PV under central growth assumptions.

The UK is committed to meeting its 15% renewable energy target for 2020. The UK Renewable Energy Roadmap set out our understanding of actual and potential deployment and the action required to help the UK meet the target in a cost effective and sustainable way. The roadmap set out that solar photovoltaics (PV) would have a relatively limited role in cost-effective delivery of the overall target.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households he expects to be lifted out of fuel poverty as a result of the Warm Home Discount Scheme. [79990]

Gregory Barker: Estimates of the impact of the Warm Home Discount Scheme on fuel poverty were published in the relevant impact assessment in February 2011:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/warm-home-discount/1308-warm-home-disc-impact-assessment.pdf

where it was estimated that in 2011-12 the net impact of the Warm Home Discount will be a reduction in fuel poverty of around 88,000 households, rising to around 98,000 households in 2014-15.

CABINET OFFICE

Resilience and Emergencies

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what bodies have replaced regional resilience teams in the Government offices for the regions. [79496]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

I am the Minister for Fire and Resilience. Following the closure of the Government offices for the regions on 31 March 2011, the functions of the former regional resilience teams transferred to the Resilience and Emergencies Division in my Department. The division comprises 53 FTE staff (which can be augmented by volunteers from elsewhere in the Department when necessary). This is approximately 20% fewer staff than employed in the former regional resilience teams, but provides the same Government support to local responders in emergency preparedness and response (the 'regional response capability'), as well as continuing to discharge the Department's lead Government Department responsibilities. This includes the site clearance workstream. It is not possible to apportion staff time to individual workstreams as at any one time resilience advisers will be contributing to the full range of workstreams in the Capabilities programme according to the risks faced in a given locality. There is no budgetary provision for specific workstreams.

HEALTH

Bowel Cancer: Drugs

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many applications were approved for *(a)* first line and *(b)* second line treatment of bowel cancer through the use of Avastin in each strategic health authority area in each of the last three years; and at what cost per treatment; [79300]

(2) what guidance he has issued on the prescription of Avastin in treating bowel cancer; [79301]

(3) what the availability is of Avastin for treating bowel cancer in each strategic health authority area. [79302]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued any guidance on the prescription of Avastin (bevacizumab) for the treatment of bowel (colorectal) cancer.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published or is developing technology appraisal guidance on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of Avastin for a number of its licensed indications and more information is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk

NICE does not recommend Avastin for the treatment of colorectal cancer.

In the absence of a positive NICE appraisal on a drug, it is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) to make funding decisions based on an assessment of the available evidence. Information on individual PCT funding decisions is not collected centrally.

Where a cancer drug is not routinely funded by a PCT, patients may be able to access the drug through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

Information on the funding of Avastin (bevacizumab) in each strategic health authority (SHA) under the interim cancer drugs funding arrangements in 2010-11 (from October 2010 to February 2011[1]) and under the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12 (to September 2011) is shown in the table. This does not include any use of Avastin that has been funded locally by PCTs.

The Department does not hold information on the specific indications for which drugs have been funded; or the cost per treatment.

[1] A breakdown of patient numbers and spend by SHA by drug for March 2011 is not available.

	Number of patients[1]		*Spend (£000)*	
Strategic health authority (SHA)	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*	*2010-11 October to February*	*2011-12 April to September*
North-east	127	263	240	1,683
North-west	45	90	275	700
Yorkshire and Humber	18	97	57	199
East midlands	50	159	83	240
West midlands	97	305	848	2,646
East of England	65	137	359	1,692
London	85	100	781	1,328
South-east coast	63	168	406	1,175
South central	5	68	29	72
South-west	28	119	132	1,000

[1] Some individual patients may be double counted where a patient has received more than one drug treatment

Source:

Information supplied to the Department of Health by SHAs

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with a vascular disease in each year since 2001 in each local authority area. [79476]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not available in the format requested. A table of information detailing the number of finished consultant episodes where a primary or secondary diagnosis of "vascular disease" has been recorded, for the required years, has been placed in the Library.

The information provided is by primary care trust of residence as the required information is not available by local authority area.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79085]

Paul Burstow: Information on all grants that the Department has made to charitable organisations is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department is currently working to address this, and systems are being put in place to capture the information for future years.

It is possible to provide partial information based on the Department's voluntary sector grants budget, which provides grants to charitable organisations. The total spend for each of the last five years is as follows:

	£
2006-07	23,764,297
2007-08	25,272,919
2008-09	24,145,002
2009-10	24,875,825
2010-11	25,428,000

Information on how this funding has been divided across the different grant funding schemes has been placed in the Library.

Capabilities Programme

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the lead Minister in his Department is for the *(a)* infectious diseases: human, *(b)* mass casualties and *(c)* health services workstream of the Capabilities programme. [79508]

Mr Simon Burns: All of these three workstreams of the UK Capabilities programme fall within the remit of the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton).

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget was for the *(a)* infectious diseases: human, *(b)* mass casualties and *(c)* health services workstream of the Capabilities programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79509]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no allocated programme budget for the infectious diseases workstream of the Capabilities programme. The Department did not have a separate programme budget for the mass casualties or health services workstreams prior to April 2008. However, the total departmental revenue programme funding budgets for the mass casualties and health services workstreams since 2008-09 and for the current and next financial years are as follows:

					£
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Mass casualties	230,000	245,000	220,000	146,000	106,000
Health services	899,900	660,480	322,250	0	0

From 2011-12 onwards, the Department's budgets for the mass casualties and health services workstreams include separate delivery budgets within NHS Finance, Performance and Operations. Programme funding for both sets of budgets has not yet been allocated for the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period beyond 2012-13.

However, since the vast majority of emergency preparedness and civil resilience work is funded from within NHS organisations' own budgets, the level of departmental programme funding is not necessarily indicative of the extent of work being undertaken more widely within the health sector.

Drinks: Regulation

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to measure the effectiveness of the Portman Group in regulating drinks industry marketing and packaging. [79422]

Mr Simon Burns: We expect the alcohol industry to demonstrate an ethical and responsible approach towards its customers and wider society. The Portman Group is a longstanding initiative of alcoholic drinks producing companies, which has similar aims. The Public Health Responsibility Deal challenges industry to go further.

The Responsibility Deal Alcohol Network has developed a collective pledge to commit to further action on advertising and marketing, including the development of a new sponsorship code requiring the promotion of responsible drinking. The Portman Group's current consultation on its code of practice on the marketing of alcoholic drinks relates to this pledge.

General Practitioners: Essex

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what payments the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust made to each general practice in its area in the last year for which figures are available; [79236]

(2) what the total payment per GP made by the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust was to each general practice in its area in the last year for which figures are available; [79237]

(3) what the total payment per patient made by the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust was to each general practice in its area in the last year for which figures are available. [79238]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Mid Essex Primary Care Trust directly.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average total payment made to general practices in England was in the last year for which figures are available. [79239]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the latest total spend of general practitioner practices in England is reported by the Information Centre for health and social care and is contained in their "Investment in General Practice 2006/07 to 2010/11 England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland" report. This publication has been placed in the Library.

In England in 2010-11, total payments to primary medical care contractors (in the main general practice contractors) amounted to £8.349 billion.

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average total payment per patient made to general practices in England was in the last year for which figures are available. [79241]

Mr Simon Burns: The total payment per patient made to general practices in England in 2010-11 was £151.75.

Health Care Incentives

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he is considering mechanisms to ensure that hospitals are provided with financial incentives to participate in arrangements for integrated care for people *(a)* aged over 75 years, *(b)* with diabetes, *(c)* injecting drug users and *(d)* other age groups and conditions that would benefit from an integrated care model to facilitate better patient care and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. [79026]

Mr Simon Burns: The Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention Long Term Conditions Workstream is developing a "year of care" funding model for people with long-term conditions to dramatically improve quality of care for patients with long-term conditions that will actively encourage integration of health and care services. This model will look to create incentives for organisations to manage people's care jointly and seamlessly. It will look to ensure investment in services that will keep them out of accident and emergency and more effectively manage patients in the community to help deliver better health outcomes at reduced costs, instead of simply passing costs and responsibility for people with complex health problems around the system.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* organisational support, *(b)* finance, *(c)* evaluation processes and *(d)* other mechanisms he is putting in place to encourage the development of integrated care between existing NHS providers, GPs, social services and third sector agencies; and if he will make a statement. [79027]

Paul Burstow: The proposals we have outlined in the Health and Social Care Bill place a much firmer emphasis on the importance of integration—better collaboration, partnership working and integration across social care and the national health service at all levels.

The NHS Commissioning Board, Clinical Commissioning Groups, health and wellbeing boards as well as the regulators Monitor and the Care Quality Commission will all have enhanced duties to encourage integration and work across health and social care. Health and wellbeing boards are a key element of our health and care reforms, and that is why we are putting mechanisms in place to encourage the development of integrated care through the support of National Learning Networks.

Integration is a key focus of the adult social care engagement exercise: 'Caring for our Future', and it is working in partnership with the Future Forum to further develop how can we take advantage of the health and social care modernisation programme to ensure services are better integrated around people's needs.

We have made financial support available to back this up. The spending review set out substantial additional funding, up to £1 billion by 2014-15 within the NHS, to specifically benefit social care and improve health outcomes.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12 clearly reiterated the importance of partnership working between health and local government organisations in particular working together to achieve efficiencies and deliver value for money from the public purse.

Health Services: North-west England

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the recent review of vascular services in the North West, how many arterial centres are being proposed for *(a)* Merseyside and Cheshire and *(b)* Greater Manchester. [79475]

Mr Simon Burns: Vascular services across the national health service in England are being reviewed locally. This is in response to the growing clinical evidence base that provides a strong case for providing vascular surgery services in fewer more specialised centres or networks to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

Decisions about the provision of local health services, including vascular services, are a matter for the local NHS.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review Project board is leading a review of vascular surgery services in Cheshire and Merseyside which will be subject to public consultation in due course.

Malnutrition

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to establishing a Malnutrition Commission to reduce the level of malnutrition in the UK. [79295]

Paul Burstow: The Department has no plans to establish a Malnutrition Commission. The Dignity in Care Commission was established as a joint initiative by the NHS Confederation, Age UK and the Local Government Group and I have invited Age UK to meet me to discuss how malnutrition could form part of the Commission's work and how we can address the policy issue more widely.

NHS Land

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 836W, on NHS land, what discussions his Department has had with private health care providers on the potential use of NHS land, building and facilities since May 2010. [79126]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental officials have not had any discussions, since May 2010, with any private health care providers in respect of the potential use of national health service land, buildings and facilities.

NHS: Private Patients

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with bodies and organisations (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad on his proposed increase in the number of non-European economic area overseas private patients treated in NHS hospitals. [78938]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no formal discussions between Ministers and departmental officials with bodies and organisations in the United Kingdom and abroad regarding increasing the number of overseas private patients receiving treatment in national health service hospitals. Furthermore, there is no proposal to increase the number of non-European economic area overseas patients treated in NHS hospitals.

However, there is a proposal in the Health and Social Care Bill to remove the private patient cap. The intention behind the removal of the private patient cap is not to increase the number of private patients receiving treatment in NHS hospitals but to allow NHS foundation trusts to develop new services that deliver better care for patients.

NHS Property

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are any plans by primary care trusts and strategic health authority clusters to sell NHS *(a)* property and *(b)* assets to non-NHS organisations; and what the property and assets are which they propose to sell. [78939]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is not aware of any plans by primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authority clusters to sell national health service property and assets to non-NHS organisations.

It is not the Department's policy to sell parts of the NHS estate where services are provided to patients. Current NHS best practice confirms that estate should only be offered to independent organisations where it is surplus to NHS or other public sector requirements, and should normally be sold by auction or competitive tendering.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, PCTs will be abolished in April 2013.

The Department announced on 4 August 2011, that aspirant community foundation trusts, other NHS trusts, and foundation trusts are to be given the opportunity to acquire part(s) of the PCT estate deemed "service critical clinical infrastructure". A copy of the relevant guidance, 'PCT Estate: future ownership and management of estate in the ownership of Primary Care Trusts in England', has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_129008

PCTs have been working with NHS providers to agree the portfolio of properties that will transfer to them. Proposed lists are with the Department for review and approval by 15 December 2011. It is expected that actual transfers of estate will commence in 2012.

PCTs will retain those parts of the estate not transferred to NHS providers, for the time being. An announcement and further guidance relating to this part of the estate will be issued in due course.

Appendix B of the guidance sets out the type of property that will typically be retained by the PCT. This includes properties, which are surplus, unutilised or part of a development programme.

Patients: Transport

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued regarding the provision of non-emergency transport between NHS hospitals since 2001. [78988]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for ensuring that there is provision of ambulance services (which could include patient transport services), to such extent as they consider necessary to meet all reasonable requirements. It is for the local national health service to decide who provides non-emergency patient transport services for eligible patients in their area.

The Department issued a guidance document 'Eligibility Criteria for Patient Transport Services (PTS)' on best practice relating to patient transport services in 2007. A copy has been placed in the Library. The guidance sets out in detail the eligibility criteria for use of that service. Eligibility is based upon medical need. The document supersedes 'Ambulance and other patient transport services—operation, use and performance standards' which was published in 1991.

Prescription Drugs: Costs

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of the over-prescription of drugs in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands, *(c)* South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust and (d) Tamworth. [79536]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not routinely collect data on the annual value of unused prescription medicines for England as a whole or in part.

We commissioned the York Health Economics Consortium and the School of Pharmacy at the University of London to carry out research to determine the scale, causes and costs of waste medicines in England. The report, "Evaluation of the Scale, Causes and Costs of Waste Medicines", was published by the researchers on 23 November 2010. The report estimated the gross annual cost of unused prescription medicines in national health service primary and community care in 2009 to be in the region of £300 million, of which £150 million was avoidable waste. There are many causes for medicines wastage. Over prescribing of medicines is just one of those causes.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has made on establishing a topic expert group to create a Quality Standard for prostate cancer; and if he will make a statement. [78323]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not held by the Department. I have asked the chief executive of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to write to the hon. Member with this information. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Sexual and Alcohol-related Violence

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with other Government Departments on the provision of cross-departmental services to provide assistance to those suffering from sexual and alcohol-related violence. [78994]

Anne Milton: The Department is committed to ending violence against women and girls and works closely with other Government Departments on this agenda. Departmental Ministers meet with others from across Government as part of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Violence against Women and Girls. Departmental officials work closely with other Government Departments on taking forward the actions in the Violence Against Women and Girls action plan, and are represented on cross-Government groups on sexual violence, as well as on more specific related issues such as trafficking, child sexual exploitation, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. For example, the Department is currently working closely with the Home Office on considering the transfer of commissioning responsibilities for Sexual Assault Referral Centres from the police to the national health service.

The Government will publish their alcohol strategy document later this year. The strategy document will address the full range of harm from alcohol, including alcohol-related violence. Departmental officials regularly discuss these issues with our colleagues in the Government and Partners Alcohol Working Group.

Skin Cancer: Drugs

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of ipilimumab (Yervoy) for people with advanced melanoma. [79303]

Mr Simon Burns: We have made no such assessment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising the use of Yervoy (ipilimumab) for the treatment of previously treated unresectable stage III or IV malignant melanoma and has not yet issued final guidance to the national health service.

In the absence of final NICE guidance on a drug, it is for local primary care trusts (PCTs) to make, funding decisions based on an assessment of the available evidence. Where a cancer drug is not routinely funded by a PCT, patients may be able to access the drug through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

Skin Cancer: Young People

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided for skin cancer prevention programmes amongst young people in the last 10 years. [79304]

Mr Simon Burns: Sunsmart is the national skin cancer prevention run by Cancer Research UK. Confirmed funding for Sunsmart from the Department of Health, England, for the period 2004-05 onwards is provided in the following table (along with information regarding an Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Grant which also aims to influence young people to take action to prevent melanoma skin cancer). Prior to that time there are no central records of grant payments made for skin cancer prevention programmes among young people, and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£

	Sunsmart	*Testing innovative approaches to influence young people to take action to prevent melanoma and men from low socioeconomic groups reporting with early stage melanoma (Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Grant)*
2004-05	72,000	—
2005-06	145,000	—
2006-07	150,000	—
2007-08	104,000	—
2008-09	110,000	—
2009-10	615,000	—
2010-11	500,000	150,000
2011-12	[1]—	153,000

[1] Decisions about possible allocation of funding to Sunsmart in 2011-12 have not yet been made.

The Department has also provided funding to support the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act which prohibits sunbed operators from allowing those under 18 years from using sunbeds in commercial premises.

Speech and Language

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure co-ordination between Public Health England, local authorities and the NHS on the early identification of speech language and communication needs following the implementation of his planned reforms to the NHS; [79230]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill on people with speech language and communication needs; and if he will make a statement. [79232]

Mr Simon Burns: There has been no central assessment of the potential effects of implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill specifically for people with speech, language and communications needs. The proposals in the Bill move the national health service towards a system that puts patients first, with local organisations responsible for assessing and responding to population needs and with a greater focus on health outcomes, improving choice and integrated service delivery.

The Bill provides the basis for better collaboration, partnership working and integration across local government and the NHS at all levels. The drivers of integration in the modernised health and care system will be clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), the NHS Commissioning Board, Monitor and local government. CCGs and the NHS Commissioning Board Will both have new duties to promote integrated working by taking specific action to secure integration, where beneficial to patients. In addition, the Bill gives Health And Wellbeing Boards a duty to encourage health and social care commissioners to work together in an integrated manner to advance the health and well-being of their community, and to involve users and the public in doing this.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means commissioning bodies will ensure that people with speech language and communication needs are identified and treated as a priority in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [79231]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, general practitioners (GPs) will be given real responsibility through clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to ensure that commissioning decisions are underpinned by clinical insight and knowledge of local health care needs. GPs, in partnership with other local health care professionals such as therapists and community nurses, are best placed to understand the speech, language and communication health needs of local populations and how to work with their local populations to design services that meet those needs.

In addition, CCGs will work with local authorities to develop a comprehensive analysis of health and social care needs in each local area, and to translate these into action through the joint health and well-being strategy and their own commissioning plans. Health and Wellbeing Boards will promote joined up commissioning that will support integrated provision of services across health and social care.

Vitamin D

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency in the population; [79384]

(2) how many cases of rickets were recorded in England and Wales in each of the last 30 years; [79385]

(3) what steps he is taking to encourage *(a)* adults, *(b)* children and *(c)* pregnant women to ensure they have sufficient intake of vitamin D. [79493]

Mr Simon Burns: The 2000-01 National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) of 19 to 64-year-olds found that around 15% of the adult population overall, and a quarter of the 19 to 24 age group, had a blood concentration of vitamin D which indicated that they were at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Preliminary results from the analysis of blood samples collected in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 NDNSs show that average blood concentrations of vitamin D for older children (11 to 18-year-olds) and adults (19 to 64-year-olds) were above the threshold that indicates a risk of vitamin D deficiency. It is not possible to extrapolate the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency from this data due to small numbers covered in the survey to date.

The number of episodes of rickets per year for each year in the past 30 years is not available. Data from the Hospital Episode Statistics on the number of episodes of rickets per year from 1995-96 to 2010-11 are provided in the following table.

Number of finished consultant episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of rickets by year from 1995-96 to 2010-11

	Finished consultant episodes
1995-96	183
1996-97	201
1997-98	147
1998-99	173
1999-2000	232
2000-01	214
2001-02	289
2002-03	277
2003-04	329
2004-05	306
2005-06	386
2006-07	497
2007-08	507
2008-09	723
2009-10	739
2010-11	762

Reference should be made to the footnotes when interpreting the data provided[1, 2, 3]

It is not possible to extrapolate the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency from this data due to small numbers covered in the survey to date.

Most people should be able to get enough vitamin D from the action of summer sunlight on the skin. However there are some population groups who are at risk of having a low vitamin D status, including infants and young children, all pregnant and breastfeeding women, all people aged 65 and over, people with darker skins (especially those of South Asian and African-Caribbean origin), and people not exposed to sufficient sunlight (e.g. people whose clothing conceals them fully or those who are confined indoors). Vitamin D supplements are therefore recommended for these at risk groups.

The Department recommends all pregnant and breastfeeding women and all children from six months to five years take a daily vitamin D supplement as a precautionary measure. The Department provides vitamin supplements that include vitamin D through its Healthy Start scheme to pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and young children from low-income families. We encourage primary care trusts (PCTs) to make these vitamins available to all women and young children.

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. The number of episodes does not represent the number of different patients, as a person may be admitted on more than one occasion in any given year.

[2] The number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis indicates where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

[3] HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage and changes in NHS practice.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Unmanned Air Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Watchkeeper 450 unmanned air system to be deployed and operational in Afghanistan. [72351]

Peter Luff: Watchkeeper is expected to deploy to Afghanistan in the first quarter of next year and is expected to deliver progressively increasing operational capability throughout 2012.

Ammunition: Storage

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what munitions are *(a)* tested, *(b)* modified and *(c)* stored at the munition facilities at (i) Crombie, (ii) Beith and (iii) Glen Douglas. [78343]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence does not currently modify or test munitions at the defence munitions sites at Crombie and Glen Douglas. Crombie holds a range of munitions including mines, small arms ammunition and pyrotechnics and aircraft canopies containing explosive components. Glen Douglas stores a wider range of general munitions, including shells. Beith undertakes the testing, modification and storage of complex weapons, including missiles and torpedoes.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he plans to appoint a chief coroner to deal with cases involving members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [78502]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 7 November 2011]*: The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for coronial matters, including the proposal to include the office of the Chief Coroner in Schedule 5 of the Public Bodies Bill, which will allow the majority of the Chief Coroner's key functions to be transferred to either the Lord Chief Justice, in respect of judicial functions, or the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), for administrative functions. This will allow coroner services to be improved across the country, including for bereaved relatives of members of the armed forces. It will also allow the Lord Chief Justice to set mandatory training requirements for coroners and their officers, including training in respect of inquests involving members of the armed forces.

The Government are clear that urgent reform is required to ensure that the coronial system offers a much better service to the bereaved families of service personnel. That is why we are ensuring that coroners conducting inquests involving members of the armed forces can access proper, specialist military training, and that inquests can be transferred to locations close to the homes of bereaved families. We are also introducing a new Charter to set out the clear, enforceable standards which everyone should expect at an inquest, and we are appointing a Minister, supported by representatives of bereaved families, to be in charge of driving and monitoring these much needed changes.

Taken together these plans will continue the downward pressure on waiting times for inquests involving members of the armed forces, and will deliver on this Government's commitment to honour the memories of those brave servicemen and women who have laid down their lives for our country, and to care for the loved ones they have left behind.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions his Department has sought money from relatives of deceased service personnel since May 2010; and for what reasons in each case; [78219]

(2) how much has been collected by his Department in advanced wages from families of deceased service personnel since May 2010; [78220]

(3) whether his Department has received any complaints about the collection of wages of deceased service personnel since May 2010; and what the grounds were for any such complaints. [78221]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* We never ask families of those killed in service to pay money back. Our aim is always to ensure families receive the right amount of money as quickly as possible and we conduct a full reconciliation of their pay accounts as soon as we have all the information available to us.

Consequently, while we do not collect any money from the families of deceased service personnel, we do adjust future payments to ensure families are paid all to which they are entitled. This includes payment for any outstanding annual leave.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the percentage increase was in *(a)* the rate of inflation and *(b)* service pay in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms between 2010 and 2011. [79113]

Mr Robathan: In the year to 2010-11 UK general inflation, as measured by the latest published GDP deflator, was 2.8%. The defence inflation statistic measures average change in pay, and prices of goods and services, making up the defence budget, with quality and quantity held constant.

The latest estimate of defence inflation for 2010-11, in nominal terms, is 4.2%.

The latest estimate of defence inflation for 2010-11, in real terms, is 1.4%.

The latest estimate of inflation in military basic and specialist pay for 2010-11, in nominal terms, is 2.8%.

The latest estimate of inflation in military basic and specialist pay for 2010-11, in real terms, is 0.0%.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of how many further reductions there will be to the number of civilian jobs in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in the period up to 2015. [79117]

Mr Robathan: The Strategic Defence and Security Review announced a reduction of about 25,000 civilians across the Ministry of Defence (MOD) by April 2015. Since then, we have completed further work in preparation for the next planning round. In July we announced a reduction of a further 7,000 civilians from 2015.

The MOD's budget and civilian manning are not distributed on a single service basis.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many main battle tanks are available for service in the Army. [78007]

Peter Luff: Following the implementation of the strategic defence and security review the Army's supported main battle tank fleet now consists of 227 Challenger 2. The Ministry of Defence is currently considering the disposal options for the 118 Challenger 2 that are no longer part of the supported fleet.

AWE: Radioactive Waste

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what target date he has set for the completion of treatment of intermediate level radioactive waste held at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE); and when he expects the planned geological disposal facility for radioactive waste to begin accepting waste from the AWE. [77627]

Peter Luff: No target date has been set for the completion of the treatment of intermediate level radioactive waste (ILW) at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), as treatment is likely to be necessary for the duration of the nuclear weapons programme, including during the decommissioning and disposal of sites, facilities and equipment.

The Ministry of Defence's current planning assumption for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's national geological disposal facility to commence the receipt of AWE's ILW materials is 2070.

Battle of Waterloo: Bicentenary

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to commemorate the bicentenary of the battle of Waterloo in 2015. [78566]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend, Baroness Rawlings to the noble Lord, Lord Laird, in another place on 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column WA423.

Defence: Territorial Waters

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what defensive measures he has in place to ensure the effective protection of UK territorial waters in the event the Royal Navy's emergency stand-by vessel is unavailable.; [79107]

(2) whether the Royal Navy has failed to provide a warship for emergency stand-by at any time in the last six months. [79109]

Nick Harvey: There are always a number of Royal Navy units at sea maintaining the security of UK waters. Should a warship be required for emergency stand-by, one of these would be tasked accordingly. There has been no requirement for such tasking in the last six months.

Other Government Departments and their agencies, such as the UK Border Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, also contribute to the safeguarding of our shores.

NDPBs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78118]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has responsibility for 28 non-departmental public bodies (NDPB): three executive bodies; 23 advisory bodies; one public corporation; and one independent monitoring board.

The 23 advisory bodies, consisting of public appointees, provide independent and expert advice to Ministers on particular topics of interest. They do not employ their own staff.

The three service museums are the executive bodies for which the MOD is responsible. They are allocated their own budgets and employ their own staff, in 2010-11 their staff, who are not civil servants, numbered 255.

The Oil and Pipelines Agency is the MOD public corporation, and has employed 44 staff since July 2011, this includes two civil servants on secondment from the Department since 2010.

The Department publishes a detailed annual document 'Public Bodies 2010' which summarises each public body and provides basic data concerning arrangements for governance, code of conduct and appointments, income/expenditure, staff arrangements and equalities data. This can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/AnnualReportsAgenciesNDPBs/AnnualReportsAgenciesNdpbs.htm

A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Marketing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people his Department employs to work on marketing and communications. [79654]

Mr Robathan: Communications posts deliver a wide range of services including marketing, media and press services, internal communications, digital and social media services and corporate communications.

The latest figures for posts providing or supporting communications roles were recorded as at 31 March 2011. The total number of such posts was 688. This compares with 748.5 as at 31 March 2010. Both service and civilian personnel fulfil communications roles throughout Defence and the Department's trading funds, including in the service commands and in operational theatres. This total includes posts that were vacant at the time of the survey. It also includes a number of posts where the communications role is a partial duty and the post holder will have other significant responsibilities.

Savings have been made across communications during the course of the current financial year and further substantial reductions are planned.

Public Sector Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78051]

Mr Robathan: In financial year 2010-11, 770 staff earned more than £65,000 in basic salary. This figure includes those in bodies for which the Secretary of State for Defence has responsibility. Details of the bands requested are as follows:

Salary range	*Subtotals*
£65,000-£94,999	707
£95,000-£139,999	49
£140,000-£174,999	9
£175,000 plus	5
Total	770

This figure includes 84 part-time staff whose salaries have been included and shown as full-time equivalents (FTE). The total figure represents less than 1% of the total civilian workforce in the Department. The figures include senior civil servants, civilian doctors, medical consultants, dental practitioners, Ministry of Defence police and teaching grades.

The Department has implemented Government policy and introduced a pay freeze which, for the senior civil service, will remain in force until 31 March 2013 and for those below until 31 July 2013. This, together with the planned reduction in civil service numbers at all grades, should see the number earning over £65,000 fall further by 2014.

Written Questions

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ordinary written questions tabled to his Department by hon. Members over the last three years have not received a substantive reply in more than *(a)* one month and *(b)* two months; and what the subjects were of those questions. [79244]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) received 6,932 ordinary written questions to answer during the last three parliamentary sessions to 31 October 2011. Of these, 67 did not receive a substantive reply in more than a month. Of those, 15 did not receive a substantive reply in more than two months. The subjects of the questions were estates, aircraft, reports, animals, IT, costs, operations, the Data Protection Act, manpower, pay, medical, the Met Office, entertainment, correspondence, the civil service, the armed forces, transport, veterans, contracts, disposals, procurement, ships, Afghanistan, the Army, NATO, correspondence, Trident, security, public relations, travel and military aid.

The MOD shall be providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance at the end of the parliamentary session. Statistics relating to the MOD's performance for the 2009-10 session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73727]

Peter Luff: The use of a Government Procurement Card (GPC) to withdraw cash is exceptional and cardholders must obtain approval from the central branch responsible for GPC policy in order to active this facility. Such cash withdrawals are, in general terms, only authorised to support military operations and overseas deployments, and for emergencies such as, disaster recovery and emergency aircraft landings.

37 GPC cash transactions, totalling £17,721.01 are recorded, for the period April 2006 to March 2010. Cash transactions include those over the counter at a bank and the use of automated teller machines (ATMs). It is not possible to identify solely ATM transactions.

The date of each transaction is detailed in the following list:

Date of transaction

5 July 2006
14 August 2006
21 August 2006
21 August 2006
9 November 2006
16 November 2006
16 November 2006
18 November 2006
18 November 2006
30 November 2006
2 February 2007
15 June 2007
15 June 2007
15 June 2007
16 June 2007
16 June 2007
3 July 2007
19 September 2007
20 September 2007
15 November 2007
11 January 2008
2 May 2008
2 May 2008
17 July 2008
21 August 2008
27 August 2008
30 August 2008
6 October 2008
19 November 2008
3 December 2008
31 March 2009
24 June 2009
24 June 2009
25 June 2009
27 June 2009
8 August 2009
5 November 2009.

Honours and Decoration Committee

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) who he intends to appoint to conduct the independent review of the Honours and Decoration Committee; and if he will make a statement; [79129]

(2) when he intends to establish the independent review of the Honours and Decorations Committee; and if he will make a statement. [79131]

Mr Robathan: The Government have agreed that there should be a fresh review of the rules governing the award of military medals. This will be conducted by an independent reviewer with full consultation with interested parties. The scope of the review and who is to lead it are expected to be announced shortly.

Old Drill Hall

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 327W, on Old Drill Hall, whether it is his present understanding that his Department had title to the Old Drill Hall, Weymouth at the time of its sale in 1993. [79262]

Mr Robathan: Based on legal advice it was understood, at the time of sale, that the Ministry of Defence had title to the Old Drill Hall, Weymouth. That position was later accepted by the Land Registry.

After the passage of almost 20 years it is not possible to say more but the Department's position has been upheld by the courts on several occasions since 2005.

RAF Lossiemouth: European Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effect on Quick Reaction Alert response times of basing the Typhoon force at RAF Lossiemouth. [79522]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* RAF Lossiemouth has already proved successful in holding the Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) North role on a temporary basis during periods when essential resurfacing work was undertaken on the RAF Leuchars runway.

At RAF Lossiemouth, Typhoon Aircraft will be held at continuous ground readiness, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will continue to maintain the mandated QRA North ability to take off within minutes to protect UK sovereign airspace. RAF Coningsby will continue to hold the QRA South role.

I am withholding further information on assessment of specific air defence scenarios as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Reserve Forces: London 2012 Olympics

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to mobilise the Territorial Army or other reserve forces for security duties associated with the London 2012 Olympics. [79293]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence will be providing a range of capabilities, in support of other Government Departments, for the Olympic and Paralympic games. The mobilisation of reserve personnel from all three services is being considered as part of Defence's overall contribution alongside regular colleagues.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Accountancy: EU Law

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on including within revised EU Accounting Directives and Transparency Directive requirements for companies to report country-specific data on *(a)* production volumes and *(b)* sales and employee numbers. [78815]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development is not required to apply this directive. The directive applies to companies listed and operating within European markets, with specific reference to extractive and forestry industries. Government Departments are not required to follow these directives, unless they have been endorsed by HM Treasury to be applied within government reporting requirements. To date there is no proposal to reflect this area within government reporting.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77494]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) enters its consultancy contracts directly with the lead supplier, based on delivery within a total cost. The number of full time equivalent staff a supplier may use to deliver a contract is not monitored centrally by DFID.

Kyrgyzstan: Overseas Aid

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department is funding in Kyrgyzstan. [79298]

Mr Duncan: DFID has been active in the Kyrgyz Republic since 1997. We use a range of aid instruments including technical assistance projects, programme-based support, and sector budget support to the health sector.

Promoting good governance is a key focus of our work. For example, DFID is assisting the government of the Kyrgyz Republic through support to strengthen public financial management Since 2009, we have worked jointly with the World Bank (WB), the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), and the European Union (EU) in close partnership with the Ministry of Finance to improve the budget formulation process; strengthen internal audit; help re-organise the Ministry of Finance; and strengthen civil society to increase accountability and promote transparency around public spending.

I have recently visited the Kyrgyz Republic, during which I made an assessment of our current and future projects. I have deposited a list of projects currently funded by the Department in the Library of the House. The list includes a number of regional projects covering other Central Asian countries as well as the Kyrgyz Republic.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Virgin Islands: Elections

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what basis observers were invited to oversee the election process in the British Virgin Islands; who selected the observers; and who was consulted. [79482]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Election observers were invited by the Governor of the British Virgin Islands, on the basis that it is normal and good practice for open democracies to invite observers to attend elections. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) regularly observes elections in the Caribbean, for example in Haiti this year, St Kitts and Nevis and St Vincent and the Grenadines last year, and the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2007. The Virgin Islands invited an observer from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) for elections in 1995.

The observers were arranged by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Isles and Mediterranean Region, who invited expressions of interest from their members.

In advance of inviting the observers, the Governor discussed the initiative with members of the British Virgin Islands Government Cabinet. The Governor also discussed his invitation with the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who decided to invite election observers to oversee the election process in the British Virgin Islands. [79483]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The decision to invite election observers was taken by the Governor of the British Virgin Islands, following consultation with the Premier and the Cabinet.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his

Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78925]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds information for the period January 2010 to June 2011. The information requested is as follows for that period:*(a)* 42; *(b)* 320; *(c)* 224; *(d)* Nine. Figures for the third quarter of 2011 will be available shortly.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78926]

Mr Lidington: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests are usually dealt with by the lead Policy Department, with the assistance of the Information Rights Team which specialises in the handling of FOIA requests. As the Policy Department has responsibility for the reply, if a request needs to be referred to a Minister, it will usually be to the Minister who has responsibility for that Department.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78096]

Mr Lidington: Central records of this information are not maintained, and an accurate answer to this question cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. For information about the procedures for seeking external legal advice, I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 615-16W, to the hon. Member for Penistone and Stocksbridge (Angela Smith).

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79565]

Mr Lidington: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	On time	*5 sitting days late*	*10 sitting days late*	*20 sitting days late*	*30 sitting days late*
2010					
May	3	0	0	0	0
June	46	1	0	0	0
July	38	0	0	0	0
September	23	0	0	0	0
October	36	0	0	0	0
November	67	4	0	0	0
December	29	0	0	0	0
2011					
January	47	0	0	0	0
February	49	2	0	0	0
March	68	3	0	0	0
April	26	0	0	0	0
May	16	2	0	0	0
June	49	0	0	0	0
July	36	0	0	0	0
August	6	0	0	0	0
September	16	0	0	0	0
October	46	1	0	0	0

Iran: Human Rights

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent report of Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran on human rights in that country; and if he will make a statement. [78585]

Alistair Burt: We strongly support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran. His recent report outlined the key priorities for his mandate pointing to some grave concerns shared by the UK over Iran's human rights record. We call on Iran to work with Dr Shaheed to improve its human rights record, and to allow Dr Shaheed to visit Iran.

IRG

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on IRG, whether any civil servants were present at the meeting between the Under-Secretary of State and Stephen Crouch in Sudan in July 2010. [79817]

Mr Bellingham: Officials were present in the arrivals lounge, but were talking with South Sudanese officials during the brief conversation.

Kenya: Human Rights

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Government of Kenya on *(a)* preventing the forcible return of those within its territories or at its borders into areas of insecurity and *(b)* ensuring punishment and prosecution of those of its agents who engage in human rights violations. [79652]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The British Government have urged the Kenyan Government not to forcibly return

Somali refugees in Kenya to Somalia. Most recently the British High Commission raised concerns about the refugees' situation in a meeting with Prime Minister Odinga on 28 October. The Department for International Development is providing £128 million of support in response to the humanitarian crisis.

The UK is a leading advocate of the reform of the police and the judiciary set out in Kenya's new constitution. We have funded civil society to lobby on allegations of extra-judicial killings and assisted with the process of police reform, including offering advice on new legislation that puts human rights and new oversight mechanisms at its heart. We take allegations of human rights violations extremely seriously and raise such concerns with the Kenyan Government.

Sri Lanka

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he discussed matters relating to Sri Lanka with the right hon. Member for North Somerset when the latter was Secretary of State for Defence. [78593]

Mr Hague: I had regular discussions on a wide range of issues with my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) in the normal course of business.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Monuments: Chartism

Jessica Morden: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, if the House of Commons Commission will consider marking the Chartist movement in the Palace of Westminster. [79382]

John Thurso: The Commission has no plans to do so. Such matters are usually handled by Mr Speaker, who is advised by the Advisory Committee on Works of Art.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

British Nationals Abroad: Elections

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has any plans to change the right of UK citizens living abroad to vote in elections. [79632]

Mr Harper: The Representation of the People Act 1985 provided for the first time for UK citizens living overseas to be able to register to vote in general and European parliamentary elections in the UK on a time limited basis. Currently, British citizens living overseas can register to vote in these elections, provided they have been previously registered in the UK in the past 15 years.

The Government are considering whether the 15 year time limit remains appropriate, if a change is proposed, Parliament will need to reconsider the issue.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

British Chambers of Commerce Survey

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the recommendations made in the British Chambers of Commerce Workforce Survey: Small Businesses report. [79380]

Mr Davey: The Department is leading the cross-Government Employment Law Review and is looking at all evidence about the operation of the underpinning legislative framework and burdens on business, including from the British Chambers of Commerce, other business representative groups, trade unions and other stakeholders. A key objective of the review is making it easier for a business to take on staff. The review will also consider ideas that emerge from the Red Tape Challenge aimed at facilitating the recruitment of employees by businesses. Where we can make legislation easier to understand, improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, we will.

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77353]

Mr Davey: Core BIS has commissioned eight assets with a value of £250,000 or more since May 2010 with a total value of £6,670,675. Some of these assets were previously recorded as "assets under construction" but have been commissioned for use since May 2010. Equally, during the period, expenditure was incurred on assets still under construction. This expenditure has not been included in the following response but this spend has been capitalised on the BIS balance sheet, recorded in "assets under construction".

The following three assets relate to information technology projects:

Implementation of service enhancements to the Disaster Recovery service—£684,758

Replacement Content Management System for internet service—£266,427

New Shared Web Services for BIS and its partner organisations—£667,298.

The following five assets relate to building and estates projects:

Meeting room environmental works at 1 Victoria Street, London—£662,837

Replacement air handling and chillers at 1 Victoria Street, London—£3,172,751

Work carried out to heating and ventilation at 1 Victoria Street, London—£323,520

Replacement roof and maintenance work at 10 Victoria Street, London—£327,823

Re-fit of Europa Buildings, Glasgow prior to relocation of staff—£565,261.

Export Credits Guarantees

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each country owes to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [79193]

Mr Davey: Debt owed by sovereign Governments to the Export Credits Guarantee Department is shown by country in the following table.

Country	*Total debt (£ million)*
Antigua and Barbuda	1.45
Argentina	45.24
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.36
Congo, DR	19.64
Cote D'Ivoire	21.02
Cuba	189.68
Dominica	6.79
Ecuador	31.75
Egypt	94.25
Grenada	1.76
Guinea	4.30
Indonesia	468.11
Iran	28.44
Iraq	281.70
Kenya	16.12
Korea, DPR	5.86
Myanmar	54.02
Pakistan	5.73
Serbia	186.48
Seychelles	1.15
Somalia	51.65
Sudan	677.74
Vietnam	6.68
Zimbabwe	194.44
Total	2,395.37

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which countries have received loans from the Export Credits Guarantee Department in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available; and what each country received in each year. [79203]

Mr Davey: None. The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) does not make loans to countries. It provides guarantees to banks for export credit loans used to finance exports, and provides credit insurance policies to exporters against non-payment risks.

The aggregate value of the guarantees and insurance policies issued in each of the last five years is shown in the following table by country. This information is routinely made available in ECGD's Annual Report and Accounts. ECGD would make payments under its guarantees or insurance policies in the event of a claim, typically due to a buyer default on payments due to the UK exporter.

					£ million
Country	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Abu Dhabi	—	—	—	184	82
Australia	—	—	48	140	152
Austria	—	—	—	5	9
Azerbaijan	5	—	—	—	—
Bahrain	—	—	—	41	6
Bermuda	—	—	—	42	81
Brazil		60	93	48	84
Chile	46	37	91	—	128
China	1	—	—	3	146
Colombia	—	—	14	67	—
Czech Republic	22	17	8	—	—
Dubai	—	—	—	—	371
Egypt	—	—	0.3	—	331
El Salvador	21	42	—	13	—
Finland	—	—	—	29	15
France	—	—	—	—	0.5
Ghana	—	—	19	—	—
Greece	—	—	26	9	—
India	—	61	19	—	14
Indonesia	—	2	12	—	—
Iraq	—	—	—	—	0.5
Ireland	—	—	—	118	121
Israel	—	11	—	—	—
Kazakhstan	—	18	—	0.2	—
Kenya	6	—	—	—	—
Korea, Republic of	—	—	—	3	33
Kuwait	—	—	13	105	56
Luxembourg	—	—	7	—	87
Malaysia	4	27	70	129	125
Mauritius	—	—	—	14	—
Mexico	13	46	—	—	—
Morocco	5	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	24	30	40	233	105
Nigeria	—	—	52	30	5
Oman	—	—	—	139	29
Pakistan	65	—	—	37	—
Philippines	71	44	56	33	48
Portugal	—	35	21	—	—
Qatar	91	48	16	—	—
Russian Federation	44	15	—	35	343
Saudi Arabia	122	750	252	2	62
Sharjah	—	—	—	—	20
Singapore	—	—	—	75	107
Slovakia	—	—	—	—	15
South Africa	—	34	30	24	14
Sri Lanka	—	80	—	—	—
Taiwan	87	—	—	—	—
Thailand	35	—	—	161	—
Trinidad and Tobago	—	276	—	—	—
Tunisia	—	—	—	—	6
Turkey	75	58	83	21	181
United Arab Emirates	—	—	—	29	113
USA	105	79	450	401	28
Vietnam	44	33	22	15	—

£ million

Country	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Other business not listed[1]	911	30	19	21	1

---

[1] Details not disclosed (e.g. for reasons of commercial confidentiality).

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a list of scheduled debt repayments by sovereign states to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [79395]

Mr Davey: The information requested will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that the new trade finance products offered by the Export Credits Guarantee Department are marketed and accessible to small and medium-sized enterprises. [79524]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has been undertaking a market awareness campaign across the United Kingdom, alongside UK Trade and Investment, banks, trade associations and professional bodies, to meet small and medium-sized exporters to inform them of the availability of its new products which it introduced earlier this year. It has an ongoing programme to raise awareness of its products to as many exporters as possible through direct contact, the media and other avenues.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason the Export Credits Guarantee Department's short-term credit insurance policy requires a minimum contract value of £20,000; and what assessment he has made of the effect of reducing the contract value. [79525]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* The Export Credits Guarantee Department's (ECGD) credit insurance policy (the Export Insurance Policy) is designed to support single export contracts, for amounts greater than £20,000, where cover from the private credit insurance markets is unavailable, with that limit set because of its administrative cost in processing business below that level. If requested by an exporter, ECGD will consider support for a contract below £20,000.

ECGD intends to carry out a review of the product early next year and, in doing so, will consider the merits of setting no minimum contract value limit.

Export Credits Guarantees: Egypt

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider commissioning an audit of the debt owed by Egypt to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [79394]

Mr Davey: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the right hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) on 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 395W.

Iron and Steel: Competition

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the request to his Department from UK Steel, what his policy is on providing Government assistance to ensure the ongoing competitiveness of the UK steel industry. [78946]

Mr Prisk: We are unaware of any specific request from UK Steel. However, this Department works closely with UK Steel and the steel sector on a range of issues related to maintaining their international competitiveness. This includes seeking to minimise unnecessary regulatory burdens by involving the sector in discussions on better regulation and taking steps to reduce the impact of Government policy on the cost of electricity to ensure that the UK steel industry remains internationally competitive.

Any Government support for the steel industry needs to be compatible with the EC State Aid rules. Regional investment or operating aid may not be granted to the steel sector, however other forms of aid including aid for research, development and innovation, training and environmental investments is permitted.

The steel industry has opportunities to participate in collaborative research and development projects funded by the Technology Strategy Board and the EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel.

Job Creation

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many jobs were *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly created by each successful bid in the second round of Regional Growth Fund allocations. [79190]

Mr Prisk: On the basis of information provided by applicants up to 327,000 direct and indirect jobs (127,000 in Round 1 and over 200,000 in Round 2) will be created or safeguarded by the first two rounds of successful bids to the Regional Growth Fund. Progress towards the job target specified in the grant offer letter will be monitored quarterly.

Metal Theft

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy that giving of cash purchases of metal by scrap metal merchants should not be allowed and that scrap metal merchants should document all purchases of metal, identifying from whom such metal was bought. [78586]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

Discussions are under way across Government on whether legislative changes are needed to tackle metal theft.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to creating a statutory register of scrap metal merchants. [78587]

Mr Prisk: There is already a statutory requirement for scrap metal dealers to register with their local authority under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964. Furthermore, operators of scrap metal yards require either an environmental permit or a registered exemption from the Environment Agency, under waste management legislation.

Plastics

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of efforts by the plastics industry to reduce the carbon footprint arising from manufacturing and recycling plastic. [79421]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has made no formal assessment in this respect. However, the Government recognise the importance of the UK plastics industry and its role in the transition to a green economy, in particular through developing and supplying low carbon products and solutions which help other manufacturing sectors.

Through a close dialogue with the British Plastics Federation the Government are aware of the role of plastics in minimising greenhouse gas emissions. Plastics are increasingly used for components across business sectors. For example, in the automotive and aerospace sectors plastics usage is significantly reducing the weight of motor vehicles and aircraft, resulting in improved fuel efficiency, and corresponding reductions in emissions.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what bids for the third tranche of the Regional Growth Fund have been made by applicants in the East of England; and if he will make a statement. [79381]

Mr Prisk: At this time there are no plans for a third round of the Regional Growth Fund.

Research: Expenditure

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 757W, on research: expenditure, what assessment he has made of the relationship between the reduction in research and development in real terms and *(a)* future improvements to productivity in the UK economy, *(b)* innovation and product development from UK companies and *(c)* competitiveness of companies relative to other countries; and if he will make a statement. [76427]

Mr Willetts: The information is as follows:

(a) While Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) declined by 4.1% in real terms between 2008 and 2009, the economy saw a greater drop in GDP, of 4.9%. As such, the intensity of business investment in the UK—BERD as a percentage of GDP—increased slightly over the period, from 1.10% to 1.12%.

Innovation is an important driver of productivity, contributing 63% of all labour productivity growth between 2000 and 2008. Research and Development (R and D) is an important part of innovation, but many other factors are also crucial to this productivity growth, including process innovation and knowledge acquisition. The UK's industry and sector mix makes these other factors particularly important to productivity growth. In 2008, BERD accounted for around 10% of total investment in innovation.

(b) The next wave of the UK Innovation Survey will be released next year. This will provide details of businesses' sales of innovative goods. The last wave of the survey, covering 2006 to 2008, showed that:

there were increases in the shares of firms with a product innovation and an increase in the shares of firms with a process innovation during the three-year period compared to the period 2004 to 2006;

nearly half of product innovations and a third of process innovations were "leading edge" or novel.

Businesses invest in a wide range of innovation activities other than research and development. These include the acquisition of machinery, equipment and software, the acquisition of knowledge, design activities and training for innovative activities. In 2008 these activities accounted for over 57% of business expenditure on innovation activities.

(c) While UK BERD experienced a real terms drop of 4.1% in 2009, research and development expenditure is pro-cyclical and as such is expected to rise and fall in line with GDP. As noted above, the UK's BERD intensity rose slightly during 2009. This contrasts with a fall in BERD intensity in countries including Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands and Japan. Small rises of a similar scale to the UK were seen in Germany and France. US data is not currently available for 2009.

Despite the economic downturn, in 2009 the top 1,000 UK R&D performing firms reduced their R and D investment less than the top R and D performing firms in many major competitors, including France, Germany and the US.

Science

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department is implementing the Life Sciences Blueprint published in July 2009; and what progress he has made on any implementation. [78785]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The "Life Sciences 2010: Delivering the Blueprint" supported by the BIS Economics Paper No. 2—Life Sciences in the UK, published on 26 January 2010, set out specific details of progress on actions in the Life Sciences Blueprint.

On 23 March 2011, as part of the Plan for Growth, the Government announced a package of actions in support of growth in the life sciences and social care sectors. A number of these build on actions from the Life Sciences Blueprint and other existing initiatives. The Healthcare and Life Sciences growth review actions include:

Clinical trials and health research:

reducing regulatory burden and improving the cost effectiveness of clinical trials;

setting up a new Health Research Authority to streamline regulation;

making National Institute for Health Research funding to Providers of NHS Services conditional on meeting benchmarks, including a 70 day benchmark to recruit first patients for trials;

opening up information and choice about clinical trials;

building consensus on using e-health record data to create unique opportunities for research in the UK;

opening up information on clinical research to promote collaboration and innovation, and

looking to publish prescribing data at a practice level, subject to an evaluation and impact assessment by the NHS Information Centre.

Collaboration and innovation in the life sciences sector:

to establish translational research partnerships (TRPs), from its £775 million investment in NHR Biomedical Research Centres and Units. On 4 October 2011, the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my noble Friend Earl Howe, formally launched the first two National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) TRP's on Inflammatory Respiratory Disease and on Joint and Related Inflammatory Diseases;

actions to remove any barriers that limit the further development of geographical clusters for entrepreneurship and business growth;

a competition to form a Cell Therapy Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC);

improve market signalling by bringing companies and educators together to ensure educators provide the skilled individuals the sector needs to grow;

ensure the Intellectual Property (IP) system supports life sciences businesses, and

encourage innovation in NHS procurement, including £10 million investment by the Department of Health in the Small Business Research Initiative on healthcare challenges.

Additionally, the Government asked Sir David Nicholson, chief executive of the NHS, to carry out a review on how the adoption and diffusion of innovations can be accelerated across the NHS. Sir Ian Carruthers, chief executive of NHS South West, has been asked to lead the project on Sir David's behalf. Sir Ian is working in consultation with industry, academia and intermediaries to inform the report which will be submitted to Government by November 2011.

On social care:

we are improving the take up of assisted living technology, including an £18 million R&D investment programme through the Technology Strategy Board, and

we are stripping out regulations that were never meant for the social care market and prevent market entry for small providers and flexible services.

Building on these initiatives the Prime Minister has asked me, together with the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my noble Friend Earl Howe, to lead on work to identify potential areas for further development in health-related aspects of the Life Sciences sector. The work is in the context of recent developments in life sciences, such as the changing research and development (R and D) business model.

Trade Promotion: Nigeria

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what trade missions UK Trade & Investment has carried out in Nigeria in each of the last two years; and what missions are planned in the next 12 months. [79136]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) in Nigeria facilitates trade missions on behalf of a range of organisations. They enable UK companies to visit the country and meet potential customers, agents and distributors. The following list shows the missions that have taken place over the past two years and those planned for the next 12 months.

In addition the Prime Minister visited Nigeria in July 2011 accompanied by a business delegation.

2009

London Chamber of Commerce

UKTI Information Technology sector group

Afro-Caribbean Chamber of Commerce

2010

UKTI Defence and Security Organisation

London Chamber of Commerce

2011

Training Gateway

Transport Scoping

'IFSEC West Africa' Security

2012 (to be confirmed)

London Chamber of Commerce

UKTI/BESA Education Mission

UK Mass Transport Mission.

UK Trade & Investment: Local Economic Partnerships

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will put in place protocols to ensure that UK Trade & Investment engages proactively with local economic partnerships for the purposes of increasing exports of small and medium-sized enterprises. [78551]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), acting through its regional directors, has always worked with local businesses and other organisations with an interest in economic development, in developing international strategies, and this will continue. UKTI will be working with each local enterprise partnership to develop (where the local enterprise partnership wants to) an international strategy for the wider area, taking account of local conditions and local business base. This approach implements the Government's commitment in the Local Growth White Paper that UKTI will ensure an interface with local enterprise partnerships in relation to local delivery and priorities for international trade support.

EDUCATION

English Baccalaureate

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils *(a)* entered and *(b)* achieved the English Baccalaureate by constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [78992]

Mr Gibb: The figures requested have been placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his assessment is of the finding in the paper prepared for his Department by Professor Tony Watts, entitled "The Proposed Model for Career Guidance in

England: Some Lessons from International Examples", that leaving it to schools to decide whether or not to commission professional career guidance for their pupils will have damaging effects. [79218]

Mr Gibb: We believe it is right to give schools greater freedom and flexibility to make decisions that are in the best interests of their pupils, including in relation to careers guidance. We do not agree with the view that to trust schools in this way will have damaging effects. We must retain a focus on outcomes that show the extent to which young people are achieving and progressing to higher levels of education or training, or into employment, rather than on specific inputs such as the amount or type of careers guidance.

Young people receive advice on their futures from many different sources but some will benefit from face-to-face support that raises their aspirations and guides them onto a successful career path. We will issue statutory guidance making it clear to schools that they should secure face-to-face careers guidance where it is the most suitable support, in particular for disadvantaged young people and those with special educational needs and disabilities.

Young People: Vocational Training

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the support available in schools for young people preparing for post-16 vocational training and apprenticeships; [78495]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the support provided in schools for young people preparing for post-16 vocational training and apprenticeships. [78605]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 November 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills discuss support for young people entering post-16 education and training at Cabinet.

Evidence suggests that young people are not consistently receiving high-quality careers guidance. That is why, through the current Education Bill, we are giving schools responsibility for securing access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils. This must include information on the full range of post-16 academic and vocational options, including apprenticeships. A range of high quality sources of information on apprenticeships are widely available, including those produced by the National Apprenticeship Service.

The Department for Education will issue focused statutory guidance to schools in advance of the new duty coming into force in September 2012. This will set a clear expectation that schools should secure face-to-face careers guidance where it is the most suitable support, particularly for the disadvantaged.

JUSTICE

Adam Werritty

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78868]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Neither I, nor my ministerial colleagues or special advisers have attended meetings with Adam Werritty since May 2010.

The Ministry of Justice does not centrally record meetings attended by all officials in the department. To collate the information requested would exceed the cost limit for answering parliamentary questions.

Community Orders: Per Capita Costs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost to the Probation Service of supervising an individual on a community order with a programme attached for *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* sexual offending, *(c)* anger management, *(d)* drug misuse and *(e)* alcohol misuse. [79250]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is currently specifying and costing activities undertaken by probation trusts. As part of the Government's commitment to provide greater transparency, to enable the public to hold services to account and assess whether they are receiving value for money from the services we provide, NOMS will publish, in autumn 2012, three probation level input indicators one of which is the cost per community order. This will be the average, fully-apportioned cost to probation of delivering a community order or suspended sentence order sentence to the service definition as detailed in the NOMS service specification. This will include both managing the sentence and delivering court-ordered requirements. The costs of the latter will be derived from the average number and type of requirements attached to a sentence for an offender on each tier.

NOMS has published costed specifications for the following court-ordered requirements:

Programme	*Estimated cost per completion (£)*
Domestic violence and anger management programmes	
Aggression replacement treatment	1,428
Controlling anger and learning to manage it	1,564
Community domestic violence programme	3,572
Integrated domestic abuse programme	3,288
Sex offender treatment programmes	
Community sex offender groupwork programme	4,148
Internet sex offender treatment programme	3,471
Thames Valley sex offender groupwork programme	4,515
Northumbria sex offender groupwork programme	5,431

Programme	*Estimated cost per completion (£)*
Substance misuse programmes	
Addressing substance related offending	1,515
Control of violence for angry impulsive drinkers	1,039
Drink impaired driving	852
Low intensity alcohol programme	923
Offender substance abuse programme	2,088

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost to the Probation Service of supervising an individual undertaking unpaid work in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales for (i) 100 hours, (ii) 240 hours and (iii) 300 hours. [79252]

Mr Blunt: The NOMS Specification, Benchmarking and Costing (SBC) programme is creating specifications to be used in commissioning the services NOMS funds. This includes work to support benchmarking by estimating how much it should cost to deliver each service.

Using fieldwork undertaken in 2009 as part of SBC's work, the average annual cost of supervising an individual sentenced to unpaid work, excluding the cost of commencing the sentence is estimated to be:

(a) England

(i) for 100 hours: £826

(ii) for 240 hours: £1,982

(iii) for 300 hours: £2,478

(b) Wales

(i) for 100 hours: £800

(ii) for 240 hours: £1,920

(iii) for 300 hours: £2,400.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is developing systems to breakdown current expenditure on a service by service basis, including unpaid work. Once the information has been reviewed and validated we will then consider how best to use it to meet commitments under the Government's Transparency Agenda.

Public Sector Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many officials in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available; [78052]

(2) how many officials in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year; [78130]

(3) how many officials in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78138]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

(a) As of September 2011, there are 798 members of staff currently working within the Ministry of Justice and its agencies (including NOMS) earning more than £65,000 (FTE) in the financial year 2011-12[1].

(b) As of September 2011, there are 58 members of staff currently working within the Ministry of Justice and its agencies (including NOMS) earning more than £95,000 (FTE) in the financial year 2011-12[1].

(c) As of September 2011, there are 10 members of staff currently working within the Ministry of Justice and its agencies (including NOMS) earning more than £140,000 (FTE) in the financial year 2011-12[1].

(d) As of September 2011, there is one member of staff currently working within the Ministry of Justice and its agencies (including NOMS) earning more than £175,000 (FTE) in the financial year 2011-12[1].

[1] The figures provided above are inclusive of one another, for example the 58 members of staff earning more than £95,000 are included in the 798 figure and so forth.

Ministry of Justice staff below the senior civil service (excluding NOMS)

In August 2010, the pay award for staff below the senior civil service on Ministry of Justice terms and conditions (known as the 'Deal') was implemented. 25,266 members of staff received consolidated increases in salary, with the average increase being £855.

On 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 166-80, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced a two-year pay freeze in the public sector. Staff earning a full-time equivalent salary of £21,000 or less are protected from the pay freeze and must receive a minimum pay increase of £250 for each of the two years of the pay freeze. In 2011, for staff below the senior civil service, the Ministry of Justice entered the first year of the pay freeze.

The pay award 2011 for Ministry of Justice staff on 'Deal' terms and conditions, awarded basic consolidated increases in salary of £250 to all staff earning below £21,000 in order to protect the lowest-paid members of staff from the pay freeze. Consolidated pay increases were awarded to 15,604 members of staff on Ministry of Justice 'Deal' terms and conditions, with the average increase being £448. This figure is made up of 8,088 members of staff receiving consolidated increases of £250 or less and 7,516 receiving incremental progression (to the next position on the pay range) in the Ministry's lowest pay bands, Bands E and F, where the majority of staff earn less than £21,000.

The senior civil service pay freeze became effective from 1 April 2010. As such this has meant that there have been no increases to base pay awarded to senior civil servants working at the Ministry of Justice for the performance years 2009-10, 2010-11 and neither will there be for 2011-12.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS) staff below senior civil service (SCS)

49,480 members of staff in NOMS below the senior civil service received a consolidated pay increase other than promotion in the financial year 2009-10 with an average increase of £866. The figures are based on full-time equivalent salaries.

27,809 members of staff in NOMS below the senior civil service received a consolidated pay increase in the financial year 2010-11 with an average increase of £590. The figures are based on full-time equivalent salaries.

The 2010-11 figures include staff earning under £21,000 per annum receiving increases under the Government's pay freeze guidelines, staff receiving increases through contractual progression and staff receiving both increases under the Government's pay freeze guidelines and contractual progression.

Senior civil service

Performance-related pay is awarded to senior civil servants (SCS) in line with recommendations made by the Senior Salaries Review Body. Non-consolidated performance-related payments are made as part of the SCS annual pay award to those whose performance has exceeded agreed delivery objectives during the previous performance year. There is no in-year provision.

The breakdown of senior civil servants within the Ministry of Justice and its agencies (including NOMS) who were awarded non-consolidated performance-related payments for the performance years 2007-11 inclusive is set out in the following table:

Performance year	*Number of senior civil servants awarded non-consolidated performance related payments*
2007-08	161
2008-09	160
2009-10	165
2010-11[1]	59

[1] The Prime Minister, in a statement made on 16 May 2010, announced that for the senior civil service in 2010-11, the top 25% of performers (those in Performance Group 1) in each Department would be eligible to be considered for a non-consolidated performance related payment hence the reduction in the number awarded compared to previous performance years.

Ministry of Justice staff below the senior civil service (SCS)

Ministry of Justice (including NOMS) staff below the senior civil service (SCS) are eligible for in-year and end-year non-consolidated performance related payments to award exceptional performance.

The following information regarding in-year and end-year non-consolidated performance-related payments relating to Ministry of Justice staff below the senior civil service (including NOMS) provides the number of civil servants awarded in-year and end-year payments in separate breakdowns. It should be noted that some civil servants will have received both in-year and end-year payments for the relevant performance years in recognition of exceptional performance throughout the particular year.

Ministry of Justice staff below the senior civil service (excluding NOMS)

In-year non-consolidated performance related payments (excluding NOMS)

The breakdown of staff below the senior civil service (SCS) within the Ministry of Justice and its agencies (excluding NOMS) who were awarded in-year non-consolidated performance-related payments for the financial years 2007-11 inclusive is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of staff below SCS awarded in-year non-consolidated performance related payments*
2007-08	5,327
2008-09	6,135
2009-10	5,673
2010-11	5,228

End-year non-consolidated performance related payments (excluding NOMS)

End-year non-consolidated performance related payments awarded to staff in the Ministry of Justice and its agencies has been fixed at an amount of £1,200 since 2007.

The breakdown of staff below the senior civil service (SCS) within the Ministry of Justice and its agencies (excluding NOMS) who were awarded end-year non-consolidated performance-related payments for the financial years 2007-11 inclusive is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of staff below SCS awarded end-year non-consolidated performance related payments*
2007-08	2,419
2008-09	1,608
2009-10	1,889
2010-11	1,977

National Offender Management Service (NOMS) staff below senior civil service (SCS)

In-year non-consolidated performance related payments (NOMS)

The breakdown of staff below the senior civil service (SCS) within NOMS who were awarded in-year non-consolidated performance related payments for the financial years 2007-11 inclusive is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of staff below SCS awarded in-year non-consolidated performance related payments*
2007-08	3,559
2008-09	3,411
2009-10	2,503
2010-11	1,546

End-year non-consolidated performance related payments (NOMS)

End-year non-consolidated performance related payments are paid to staff, other than officer grades and operational support grades, who receive an 'Exceeded' marking on their end of year assessment. The value of end-year non-consolidated performance-related pay is set as part of the pay award and is a standard percentage of salary for all staff who receive it.

The information on end of year bonuses has been derived from performance appraisal records and assumes that all eligible staff recorded as having an Exceeded marking received a performance bonus during the following year.

The breakdown of staff below the senior civil service (SCS) within NOMS who were awarded in-year non-consolidated performance-related payments for the financial years 2007-11 inclusive is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of staff below SCS awarded end-year non-consolidated performance related payments*
2007/-08	4,817
2008-09	5,332
2009-10	5,256
2010-11	5,950

East Sutton Park Prison: Discipline

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many girls have been put on the anti-social behaviour programme in the Mary Carpenter Unit in East Sutton Park prison *(a)* more than once and *(b)* in each month in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [79535]

Mr Blunt: The Mary Carpenter Unit is part of Eastwood Park prison. Information on the number of young women placed on the antisocial behaviour programme on the Mary Carpenter Unit is represented in the following table. Over the period 1 January 2010 to 31 October 2011, five young women were placed on the antisocial behaviour programme more than once.

	2010	*2011*
January	1	0
February	2	0
March	4	0
April	6	2
May	1	1
June	0	0
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	1	0
October	2	4
November	0	•
December	0	•

Legal Aid Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the possible effect of reform of legal aid to new entrants to the legal profession; and if he will make a statement. [R] [79328]

Mr Djanogly: A number of the responses to consultation gave views as to the impact of the reforms on new entrants to the legal profession, and similar issues have been raised since during engagement with representative bodies.

Legal Aid Scheme: Prisoners

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners serving sentences in England and Wales for *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter have received legal aid for proceedings in the family courts relating to (i) custody of children, (ii) adoption of children, (iii) contact with children and (iv) parental responsibility in the last year for which figures are available; [79474]

(2) how many prisoners currently serving sentences in England and Wales for *(a)* rape, *(b)* sexual offences against adults and *(c)* sexual offences against children have received legal aid for proceedings in the family courts relating to (i) custody of children, (ii) adoption of children, (iii) contact with children and (iv) parental responsibility. [79477]

Mr Djanogly: This information is not kept by either the Ministry of Justice or the Legal Services Commission.

Prison Sentences: Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 850W, on prison sentences: human rights, what estimate he has made of the total amount paid to all offenders who have claimed compensation on human rights grounds in the last 12 months. [76351]

Mr Blunt: The information is not readily available to allow such an estimate to be calculated, and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Providing the information from the Ministry of Justice alone would involve the individual examination of several thousand files.

NOMS records litigation claims by the main type of allegation. Claims often make reference to alleged breaches of human rights. In some cases the claim will be brought wholly on an HRA basis. In others an HRA basis of claim will be but one of a number of alleged grounds of claim.

Prisoners: Location

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders are serving a sentence in a prison located in or near the community where the offence took place in England and Wales. [79612]

Mr Blunt: Information is not held centrally on the location in which prisoners' offences were committed. However, information is held on the court which dealt with the initial case.

The following table shows the number of prisoners as at 30 September 2011 who were being held in a prison in the same criminal justice area as the initial sentencing court.

	Number
Total sentenced and non-criminal prisoners	73,951
Of which:	
Held in same area as the recorded court	24,414
Held outside of area	46,691
Unknown court information	2,846

In the management of the prison population the aim is to hold prisoners in establishments that provide the level of security required, are suitable for their gender, age and legal status, provide special facilities appropriate to prisoner needs as well as being near to their homes or the courts dealing with their cases.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on victims of crime placing offenders in a prison located in or near the community where the offence took place; and if he will make a statement. [79613]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service aims to hold prisoners in establishments that provide the degree of security they require; are suitable to their gender, age and legal status; provide special facilities appropriate to prisoner needs; and are near to their homes or the courts dealing with their cases. With respect to holding prisoners close to their homes, where appropriate, maintaining family ties and constructive links to local communities are important protective factors that increase the likelihood of successful, law abiding rehabilitation on eventual release.

Prisoners on remand and those newly sentenced prior to allocation to other establishments (typically, a training prison) are held in local prisons, whose primary function is to serve the courts.

When allocating prisoners within the closed estate, it is not practical to avoid particular locations to take account of the effect on victims unless there are specific risks that needed to be addressed. If, later in the course of the sentence, consideration is given for a move to open conditions, the location of known victims should be taken into account.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost of a prison place in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales including costs (i) at establishment level, (ii) at head office level and (iii) from other services provided by other Government Departments. [79248]

Mr Blunt: Prison costs are produced on the basis of expenditure met by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). It is not possible to identify expenditure met by all Government Departments, as it would incur disproportionate cost and expenditure related to prisoners is not always separately identified. The following table provides average annual cost of a prison place in England and Wales at Establishment and Head Office level for financial year 2010-11. It also shows the allocation of expenditure for education services only in 2010-11.

2010-11

£

	Direct cost	*Central cost*	*Overall cost*	*Education cost*	*Total cost*
Per place					
Wales	39,107	12,221	51,328	1,109	52,436
England	28,450	10,808	39,258	2,378	41,636
Per prisoner					
Wales	28,234	8,823	37,057	800	37,857
England	26,934	10,232	37,167	2,252	39,418

Notes:

1. Displayed figures are subject to rounding.
2. Cost per place is expressed in terms of the baseline certified normal accommodation.
3. Establishment cost includes costs met locally by the public sector prison establishments and private sector prisons' costs.
4. Head office (central) costs include prison related costs met regionally and nationally by NOMS; for example, property costs including depreciation, major maintenance, prisoner escort and custody service (relates to transporting prisoners) and central HQ overheads. This involves some estimation.
5. Impairment charges, including the revaluation of land and buildings (£6.9 million) are not included.
6. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.
7. The figures for 2010-11 are not directly comparable with previous years' published figures due to the change in accounting treatment arising from the Government's Clear Line of Sight initiative. This is mainly due to the exclusion of cost of capital charges in expenditure reported from 1 April 2010.
8. The education costs are funds allocated in 2010-11 by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Welsh Government and the Youth Justice Board.

Prisons: Conditions of Employment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* sick pay entitlement and *(b)* pension provision applies to a prison officer working in (i) a state-run prison and (ii) a privately run prison. [79417]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is as follows.

(a) (i) Prison officers in public service prisons are normally entitled to a maximum of six months sick leave on full pay during any period of 12 months followed by half pay, subject to a maximum of 12 months sick absence in any period of four years.

If the absence is as a result of an injury or illness sustained in the course of duty, the period of absence on full pay can be extended by up to a maximum of six months in any four years. If an injury is due to an assault in the course of duty (or an assault not on duty but clearly connected with official duties), the period of absence on full pay will be extended for the total period of sick leave.

(a) (ii) Information from the private sector will vary from company to company. As an example from one prison establishment, a prison custody officer in a privately run prison is paid company sick pay equal to full pay up to the following maximum amounts in any 12 month period:

Up to two years' service—six weeks
After two years' service—eight weeks
After five years' service—10 weeks
After 10 years' service—12 weeks

(b) (i) Prison officers in public service prisons are eligible to be covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The Civil Service has five different pension schemes:

Classic
Classic plus
Premium
Nuvos
Partnership

Classic, Classic Plus and Premium are defined benefit pension schemes, but were closed to new entrants from July 2007. Nuvos is a defined benefit pension scheme and Partnership is a stakeholder pension account with employer contributions.

(b) (ii) Information from the private sector will vary from company to company. As an example from one prison establishment, a prison custody officer in a privately run prison is eligible to be covered by a Group Personal Pension Plan which is a defined contribution pension scheme with employer contributions.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what is the average *(a)* gross salary and *(b)* annual leave entitlement of a prison officer working in a (i) state prison and (ii) privately-run prison. [79494]

Mr Blunt: Information from the private sector will vary from company to company. As an example using data from one privately run prison establishment, the average gross salary and annual leave entitlement for public service prison officers and privately run prison custody officers is:

	(a) Average gross salary (per annum)	*(b) Average annual leave entitlement (days)*
(i) Public service prison officer	[1]27,940	27.5
(ii) Privately run prison custody officer[2]	21,413	31.8

[1] Includes base pay and pensionable allowances.

[2] Based on data from one privately run prison establishment.

Prisons: Discipline

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners were subject to informal punishment after adjudication in each prison in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [79478]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners who commit offences against the prison or young offender institution rules are dealt with through an internal disciplinary system known as adjudications, and if found guilty they may receive any of the punishments allowed under the rules. Adjudications are governed by formal procedures published in Prison Service Instruction 47/2011 (which is available on the Ministry of Justice website) and there is no authority for any form of informal punishment either following adjudication or in any other circumstances.

Public Sector: Misconduct

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the power of the *(a)* police and *(b)* Crown Prosecution Service to bring to prosecution the Offence of Misconduct in Public Office, following the rulings made by Judge Darlow in the case of R *v.* Laloi 2005; and if he will make a statement. [79227]

Mr Blunt: My Department is not aware of anything in the case of R *v.* Laloi which would affect the ability of the police or the Crown Prosecution Service to bring prosecutions for the offence of misconduct in public office, or that it modified the offence in any way.

The CPS reviews all cases that are referred to it by the police in accordance with the test set out in Code for Crown Prosecutors (the Code). Where there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction for misconduct in a public office, and it is in the public interest, the CPS will prosecute.

Reoffenders

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what comparative assessment he has made of reoffending rates for those offenders participating in the Intensive Alternatives to Custody pilot scheme with reoffending rates of similar offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months. [78933]

Mr Blunt: To date no such comparative assessment has been made, although the MOJ is currently looking at the feasibility of conducting an evaluation of the IAC pilots which should compare reoffending rates for IAC offenders with reoffending rates for similar offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months. In July 2011, the MOJ published a short report with the main findings from a range of research exploring the learning from the Intensive Alternatives to Custody (IAC) pilot schemes. Further process evaluations of the IAC pilot sites are currently being concluded and will be published in due course.

Sentencing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans for a national roll-out of intensive alternatives to custody schemes. [79408]

Mr Blunt: There is no single model of IAC to roll out but the Government are committed to implementing the key elements of the projects. MOJ has disseminated the findings of the pilot studies with a view to good practice being incorporated into mainstream activity via intensive community orders. In addition we have recently announced a review of community sentences which we intend will lead to a formal public consultation.

Sexual Offences: Rehabilitation

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons are running a sex offender treatment programme in England and Wales. [79604]

Mr Blunt: There are 22 sites that run an accredited sex offender treatment programme of some type. This includes provision in private prisons.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners *(a)* are participating in and *(b)* have declined to participate in the sex offender treatment programme in England and Wales since it was first introduced. [79605]

Mr Blunt: Details of how many prisoners are participating in and who have declined to participate in the sex offender treatment programmes in England and Wales since it was first introduced are not held centrally. These figures could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost by collecting information held on offender files or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of the sex offender treatment programme on post-release outcomes. [79606]

Mr Blunt: An outcome study (Friendship, Mann and Beech, 2003) compared the two-year reconviction rates of 647 adult male offenders who had taken part in the core sex offender treatment programme (SOTP) between 1992 and 1994, with 1,910 adult male offenders who had not taken part in the core SOTP. The two samples were matched on year of discharge and shared the same broad characteristics. The treated offenders had statistically significantly lower sexual and/or violent reconviction rates at two years than the untreated offenders (4.6% compared to 8.1%). The biggest impact on reconviction occurred with medium risk offenders. Low risk offenders were very unlikely to reconvict whether treated or not, and the core SOTP did not seem to be sufficient treatment for high risk sex offenders. Following this research, an additional treatment programme has been developed to increase the intensity of treatment with high and very high risk sexual offenders.

Translation Services: Public Expenditure

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost to the public purse was of providing translation services to foreign offenders supervised by the *(a)* National Offender Management Service and *(b)* Probation Service in each of the last five years. [73084]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Services central accounting system does not separately record costs of providing translation services to foreign offenders either in prison or on probation. It would incur disproportionate cost to examine and collate such costs from each respective establishments and probation trusts.

Young Offenders

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to update the ASSET document used to identify the needs of young offenders in the justice pathway; and if he will make a statement. [78592]

Mr Blunt: ASSET is a structured assessment tool used by Youth Offending Teams in England and Wales on all young offenders who come into contact with the criminal justice system. The Youth Justice Board are currently developing a detailed business case for options to review and redesign ASSET.

Youth Justice practitioners and stakeholders have been consulted on a preferred option through a statement of intent consultation phase, and the outcome of this has fed into the business case development. A decision on any update of ASSET will be informed by the final business case and a decision is likely shortly.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 10 November 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Taxation

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the introduction of a system of taxation to increase the competitiveness of the London art sales market. [78354]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), regularly meets the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), to discuss cross-departmental issues, including the effect of tax measures on the cultural sector.

Broadband: Wales

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how he proposes that the recently announced £56.9 million for supporting the broadband network in Wales will be allocated. [78557]

Mr Vaizey: The Welsh Government will determine where to allocate the £56.9 million allocation for Wales as part of their current procurement to source suppliers to upgrade infrastructure in Wales. Broadband Delivery UK is supporting the Welsh Government to deliver the UK's broadband objectives in Wales; including how and where funding is provided.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she will publish her plans to introduce mandatory carbon reporting for companies. [79355]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member for Wakefield to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Dundee West (Jim McGovern) on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 374W.

Hunting: Wild Boar

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to *(a)* introduce a closed season for the hunting of wild boar, *(b)* raise the minimum age of wild boar that can be culled to five months old, *(c)* introduce a legal minimum requirement for firearms in shooting wild boar and *(d)* reconsider the classification of wild boar as feral. [79449]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA considers the wild boar living free in parts of England to be feral as they have all come from, or are descended from, farm stock. We have no plans to change the legal protection for feral wild boar in England. With regard to control of wild boar, best practice guides on shooting feral wild boar are available from the Deer Initiative.

Reservoirs: Safety

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish the revised guidance notes for reservoir safety pursuant to the Reservoirs Act 1975 and 1996 guidance; and if she will make a statement. [79487]

Richard Benyon: There are two key guidance documents for reservoirs engineers. The first is 'A guide to the Reservoirs Act 1975', published by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) in 2000 with the support of the then Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, which is a guide to understanding the intent of the Act and approaches to managing reservoirs in compliance with the Act. The second is 'Floods and Reservoir Safety, 3rd Edition', published by the ICE in 1996. This provides technical guidance for reservoir engineers particularly with respect to their safety under flood loading.

A review of these guidance documents has been initiated and to that end the President of the ICE has been asked to lead a review of these documents and to include the Environment Agency on the review panel. The review will be carried out with the support of DEFRA. The ICE has agreed to this in principle.

The review of 'A guide to the Reservoirs Act 1975' will commence with an initial meeting on 17 November to discuss the work programme. The proposal is that the reviewed guidance on the amended legislation would be published by DEFRA in parallel with the making of the various legal instruments (Phase 1 is due to begin in October 2012).

The reviewed technical guidance should be based on currently available knowledge and be published by the ICE to a programme, and although the programme has yet to be agreed, completion is expected within two years. However, if the timescale of the introduction of the legal instruments slipped this publication would slip.

The review of 'Floods and Reservoir Safety' will be taking place over a longer timescale and no meetings have yet been scheduled.

Water Abstraction

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many rivers her Department assesses as at high risk of over-abstraction. [77235]

Richard Benyon: Under the water framework directive we classify our aquatic environment as water bodies: this includes rivers, estuaries, lakes and groundwaters etc. There are over 8,000 water bodies in England and Wales, of which there are over 5,800 river water bodies. Currently fewer than 300 of these are considered to be at high risk from abstraction pressures.

However, as part of the implementation of the first round of River Basin Management Plans, the Environment Agency is undertaking investigations to confirm this assessment. Once these investigations are completed appropriate action will be planned to take place during the remainder of the first cycle or subsequent river basin planning cycles to tackle the issue, if appropriate.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Growing Places Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria his Department used to determine the indicative allocations of funding to local enterprise partnerships from the Government's Growing Places Fund. [80035]

Grant Shapps: We will be allocating funding to qualifying bodies which apply for the fund on a consistent basis, through a formulaic approach. The formula is based on two components: population and employed earnings. This is a relatively simple formula that accounts for the size of the local enterprise partnership, and provides a good proxy for economic activity. By combining the indicators we are able to provide a smoother distribution than using either of them independently.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial contribution his Department plans to make to the Growing Places Fund. [80038]

Grant Shapps: The £500 million Growing Places Fund comprises £125 million from the Department for Communities and Local Government, £125 million from the Department for Transport and £250 million from HM Treasury.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bodies will be responsible for submitting final bids for funding from the Growing Places Fund; and if he will make a statement. [80039]

Grant Shapps: Local enterprise partnerships have been asked to apply to the Growing Places Fund. The Chair of the local enterprise partnership is asked to sign off the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, which will set out the following:

their commitment to using the Growing Places Fund to generate economic activity in the short term by addressing immediate infrastructure and site constraints which promote the delivery of jobs and housing;

they have appropriate governance arrangements in place which will secure value for money in the use of the Fund; and

they have appropriate arrangements in place to deliver transparency in the use of the fund.

The Pre-Qualification Questionnaire must be returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government by 20 December 2011.

Housing

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to monitor housing needs in relation to the trends in population to 2050 projected by the Office for National Statistics. [79945]

Andrew Stunell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Ealing Central and Acton (Angie Bray) on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 22W.

Local Government: Eggs

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has issued guidelines to local authorities on their buying criteria to ensure eggs produced in conventional cages should not be used in any form. [78568]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

The greater proportion of food procured by local authorities is for schools. DEFRA is working with the Department for Education, the School Food Trust and the major local authority buying organisations, in particular those in the PRO 5 consortium, and others to embed the Government Buying Standards (GBS), as they are developed, into national procurement frameworks for food and catering services.

Mandatory GBS criteria currently bans the use of fresh (in-shell) eggs from conventional cage systems. If a cage system is used they should be enriched cages. In light of the forthcoming EU ban on conventional cages, we intend to extend this mandatory criteria to cover all liquid and powdered egg products, which are currently in voluntary best practice criteria.

The Government believe that their role is to set a credible and workable example for the wider public sector to follow, and it is this that the GBS is designed to deliver. All public bodies have a different set of requirements and the local people most closely connected with them, staff, patients, governors, will have different priorities, making them best placed to decide how to achieve the objectives we are aiming for.

Social Rented Housing: Planning Permission

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the amount of land for which planning permission for housing development has been granted in each local authority area in England. [79320]

Andrew Stunell: The Department has not estimated the amount of land that is available with planning permission for housing development. The Department collects summary statistics on planning applications but these do not include information on land areas.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials in the Government Equalities Office and *(c)* her political advisers have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80056]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

Hate Crime

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking to tackle hate crime. [79674]

Lynne Featherstone: Tackling hate crime is an issue the Government take very seriously, and we are committed to doing more to support and protect victims. We are meeting the coalition commitment to improve the recording of such crimes and working with the police and other partners to encourage more victims to come forward. We are also working with the Government's Independent Advisory Group to develop an action plan on tackling all forms of hate crime.

Ministers: Equality

Mr Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she has a policy on the proportion of Ministers who are *(a)* women and *(b)* state educated. [79786]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to achieving a fairer society in which every individual has the opportunity to progress as far as their talents will take them, not one in which people's chances are driven by where they come from, where they went to school or who their parents are. This includes making the very best use of diverse talent in political life. Our political institutions need a reasonable balance of people with different skills and experiences so that the decisions that are made truly represent the electorate. However, we do not believe that a policy defining the proportion of women or state school educated MPs and Peers who hold ministerial positions is the best way of achieving this.

The Equality Act 2010 includes positive action provisions that relate to the work of political parties. This includes extending the period that political parties can use women-only electoral shortlists until 2030. These provisions will also allow political parties to adopt broader shadowing and mentoring opportunities for women which are aimed at increasing their opportunities to enter political life.

PRIME MINISTER

Euro Summit

Mr Cash: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to annex one of the joint statement on resolving the debt crisis, issued following the Euro summit of 26 October 2011, whether he participated in the deliberations on the proposed 10 means to improve the governance of the Euro area and on the creation of a Euro summit; and whether his consent was *(a)* sought and *(b)* given in each case. [79376]

The Prime Minister: On 26 October the European Council met before the summit of Euro members to discuss the crisis in the eurozone. We saw and discussed a draft of the eurozone declaration which was released early the next day. The final version of the eurozone statement was agreed by eurozone countries.

Mr Cash: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to participate in the negotiations on *(a)* improving fiscal discipline and economic union in the Euro area and *(b)* treaty changes as announced in the Euro summit statement issued following the summit on 26 October 2011. [79377]

The Prime Minister: I will continue to attend European Council meetings where these issues will be discussed. No treaty changes can be made without unanimous agreement of the European Council.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80050]

Mr Paterson: In respect of parts *(a)* and *(b)* I refer the hon. Member to the quarterly publication of Ministers' and Permanent Secretaries' meetings with external organisations, under the previous administration this was published as Ministers' meetings with outside interest groups. Details can be obtained on the Northern Ireland Office's departmental website.

My special adviser was a Director of Bell Pottinger Public Affairs, part of the Bell Pottinger Group, from March 2007 to December 2009. Since then he has had no formal meetings with representatives of the Bell Pottinger Group though he occasionally meets former colleagues in a social capacity. Any hospitality received is published quarterly and can be obtained on the Northern Ireland Office's departmental website.

The remaining information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79072]

Mr Paterson: The Department as it is now configured is not able to provide details of grants made to charitable organisations prior to the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April 2010, my Department has provided grants of £23,000 per annum for the Army Benevolent Fund and £62,000 per annum for the UDR Benevolent Fund.

In addition, contributions of £15,000 in 2010-11 and £10,000 in £2011-12 were paid jointly to Co-operation Ireland and Intercomm Belfast as a contribution towards the costs of the delivery of their Ambassadors for Change Programme.

WALES

Parliamentary Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in her Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79555]

Mr David Jones: Answers to parliamentary questions are drafted by officials and the Wales Office special adviser contributes to draft answers. Answers to parliamentary questions remain the responsibility of Ministers who always give the final clearance.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by her Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79553]

Mr David Jones: Since May 2010, the Wales Office has received 20 written questions for answer on a named day, all of which were answered on the named day.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by her Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79554]

Mr David Jones: Since May 2010, the Wales Office has received eight questions for ordinary written answer which have remained unanswered for a period of two months.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels: EU Law

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she plans to publish guidelines on the biofuel carbon sustainability criteria in respect of the EU Renewable Energy Directive; [79745]

(2) how long she has estimated it will take industry to put in place the appropriate certification in its supply chain to implement Government guidelines on biofuel carbon sustainability as part of the implementation of the EU Renewable Energy Directive; [79746]

(3) whether she plans to extend her deadline for industry to meet the EU Renewable Energy Directive until after she has published the compliance criteria for biofuel carbon sustainability; [79747]

(4) for how long she plans to run her Department's consultation on the guidelines for the biofuel carbon sustainability criteria; [79801]

(5) what steps her Department is taking to implement those parts of the EU Renewable Energy Directive for which she is responsible. [79802]

Norman Baker: A consultation on draft Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) guidance for fuel suppliers and verifiers covering biofuel carbon sustainability reporting was published on 7 November and will close on 4 December. It is proposed to publish the final guidance as soon as possible after the targeted consultation closes. The consultation can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-31

The Department will be working closely with industry over the coming months to provide training and advice on the changes required by amendments to the RTFO scheme to implement the Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

We also published our response to the consultation on implementing the transport elements of the RED on 7 November. The response can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-05

I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 7 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 8WS, which explains that subject to the parliamentary process we hope to implement the RED in December 2011. This would be achieved through amending the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007. I have no intention of delaying transposition and implementation.

The RED sets mandatory sustainability criteria for biofuels. The RED was published in 2009. The introduction of mandatory biofuel sustainability criteria was discussed between summer 2009 and spring 2010 at regular departmental stakeholder advisory group meetings, which included industry representatives. Those discussions and other meetings with various stakeholders helped formulate proposals which were the subject of a full public consultation between March and June this year.

The current RTFO has been in place since 2008, with voluntary reporting on carbon and sustainability. The RTFO administrator has worked closely with transport fuel suppliers as we prepare for the introduction of mandatory sustainability criteria including adapting the current RTFO Carbon and Sustainability reporting system and guidance to a "RED-Ready" standard in April 2011. Those companies that have taken the opportunity to report on a voluntary basis and to establish sustainable biofuel supply chains will be well placed to meet the requirements of an amended RTFO.

Driving: Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department plans to issue on the interpretation of the term severe hypoglycaemic event for the purposes of EU Directive 2009/112/EC and 2009/113/EC and reporting requirements under the DVLA driver licensing rules; whether this term will include severe hypoglycaemic events which occur during sleeping hours; whether the term will be interpreted to refer only to events occurring during waking hours in accordance with section 10.4 of the Annex to Directive 2009/112/EC; and what assessment she has made of the merits of clarifying the interpretation of the definition proposed for severe hypoglycaemia as being where the help of another person is required to specify that other persons' help is necessary for the treatment of hypoglycaemia. [R] [75310]

Mike Penning: Guidance on what constitutes both severe and recurrent hypoglycaemia is already available on the DVLA website and is also contained in the DVLA booklet "At a Glance Guide to the current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive". That is available to all health care professionals and can be downloaded from the DVLA's website. This guidance confirms that "Severe hypoglycaemia" means that the assistance of another person is necessary to treat the episode of hypoglycaemia.

The directive does not differentiate between hypoglycaemic attacks which occur whilst the driver is asleep or awake for group 1 (car and motorcycle) licensing. Section 10.4 of the annex says that a group 2 (bus or lorry) driver must be reassessed if any severe hypoglycaemic event occurs during waking hours. We have approached the EU to confirm the directive's intention for severe hypoglycaemia.

Metal Theft

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the effects on rail and road travel of incidents caused by metal theft; and whether she has made any estimate of the costs of such incidents. [79416]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 November 2011]*: Some estimates of the costs of such incidents are available and are presented as follows:

> In 2010-11, Network Rail incurred costs of £16.5 million in repairing damage from cable theft and in compensating operators for the delays arising from thefts. This represented an increase from £14.0 million in 2009-10 and £12.3 million in 2008-09. In addition to the direct costs on Network Rail, the Department has estimated that there was an economic cost to passengers and freight users of some £10 million during 2010-11.
>
> There has also been significant number of cases of metal theft on the Highways Agency and local road networks but cost estimates of the effects are not available.

Piracy

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Home Department on placing armed guards on UK flagged ships to guard against piracy; and if she will make a statement. [79059]

Mike Penning: There have been a number of discussions between my Department, the Home Office, and other Government Departments regarding the change in UK policy on the use of armed guards. This issue was discussed at meetings of the National Security Council. The discussions have covered complex legal and operational issues. The Prime Minister announced the change on 30 October and my Department is finalising the national guidance to ship owners which will be published later this month. A formal written ministerial statement will be placed before the House at this time.

Road Accidents

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of reducing the frequency of MOT tests on the number of deaths and serious injuries on the roads. [79681]

Mike Penning: In April 2011 the Department for Transport published the results of independent research commissioned to examine how vehicle defects affect accident rates, and to consider the potential road safety impact of changing the frequency of the MOT.

Copies of the publication have been placed on the Library of the House.

Traffic Lights: Safety

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has any plans to permit the installation of trixi traffic light safety mirrors by local authorities without the requirement to seek express permission from her. [79962]

Norman Baker: Cycle safety mirrors ("trixi mirrors") must currently be authorised by the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), because they are not prescribed within the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD).

Trixi mirrors were authorised initially at certain sites as part of a trial on Transport for London Cycle Superhighway. To further assist monitoring of their effectiveness, the authorisation is being applied across the whole Cycle Superhighway Network.

The Department intends to update TSRGD following the publication in October of the traffic signs policy review 'Signing the Way':

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/signing-the-way

Based on the outcome of the current trials, we will consider the suggestion my hon. Friend makes regarding trixi mirrors as part of this update, which is expected to conclude in 2014.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of black carbon on climate change; and if he will make a statement. [79975]

Gregory Barker: Research reported in the International Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report suggests a small, but significant, warming effect in the range of $+0.09W/m^2$ to $+0.59W/m^2$ since 1750 from black carbon emitted into the atmosphere by fossil fuel, biofuel and biomass burning. There is also a small warming effect due to the deposition of black carbon on surface snow and ice, which the IPCC estimated to be about $+0.1\ W/m^2$. By comparison, the total warming effect from long-lived greenhouse gases is estimated by the IPCC to be $+2.64W/m^2$.

Analysis by the Met Office Hadley Centre, funded by DECC, suggests black carbon aerosol emissions have potentially the second largest warming influence on climate, after greenhouse gases.

Energy: British Overseas Territories

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures to promote *(a)* renewable energy and *(b)* energy efficiency he plans to include in his January 2012 submission on his Department's priorities for providing support to British Overseas Territories. [79978]

Gregory Barker: The Department is currently reviewing what support it can offer to our Overseas Territories and will be discussing this further during the Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting at the end of November. DFID and the FCO are in the process commissioning work which will look at opportunities for addressing climate change by promoting low carbon climate resilient development in UK Overseas Territories which once completed next year will further inform where support can best be targeted.

Energy: Prices

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households which will enter fuel poverty should average annual energy bills increase by *(a)* £100, *(b)* £200, *(c)* £300, *(d)* £400 and *(e)* £500. [80002]

Gregory Barker: No official estimates have been made of the impact on fuel poverty of increasing energy bills by the amounts specified. The latest published estimates show that there were around 4 million fuel poor households in England in 2009. DECC also publish fuel poverty projections for the following two years only. These indicate that the number of fuel poor households in England is likely to stay at around 4 million in 2010 before rising slightly to 4.1 million in 2011 as the recent energy price changes begin to impact on households.

Fuel Poverty

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from what date he expects that no person in the UK will be living in fuel poverty. [80001]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to doing all that is reasonably practicable to end fuel poverty in England by 2016 and to helping people, especially low income vulnerable households, heat their homes more affordably.

Fuel Poverty: Greater London

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many households were living in fuel poverty in London in each year since 2000; [80141]

(2) how many households were living in fuel poverty in each London borough in each year since 2000. [80142]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the number of fuel-poor households in the English region of London in each year of the period for which data are available:

	Number of households in fuel poverty in London (thousand)	*Percentage of households in fuel poverty*
2003	108	3.6
2004	119	3.9
2005	120	3.9
2006	254	8.3
2007	309	10.0
2008	328	10.8
2009	402	13.3

Further information can be found on this webpage:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx

DECC has published sub-regional fuel poverty levels for 2006 and 2008 and the data are shown for local authorities in the English Region of London in the following table:

London borough	*Households in fuel poverty 2006*	*Households in fuel poverty 2008*
City of London	218	332
Barking and Dagenham	5,362	8,089
Barnet	10,001	12,912
Bexley	8,074	8,193
Brent	10,302	12,890
Bromley	9,939	11,182
Camden	7,451	11,007
Croydon	10,945	13,062
Ealing	10,397	11,955
Enfield	10,069	12,608
Greenwich	7,778	10,901
Hackney	6,891	12,129
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,287	8,691
Haringey	7,540	11,964
Harrow	7,386	7,914
Havering	7,971	9,205
Hillingdon	8,184	8,526
Hounslow	6,927	7,972
Islington	6,945	11,007
Kensington and Chelsea	9,525	9,179
Kingston upon Thames	4,759	5,385
Lambeth	8,385	13,704
Lewisham	8,153	11,649
Merton	5,213	7,153
Newham	9,054	13,009
Redbridge	8,915	10,099
Richmond upon Thames	5,288	6,487
Southwark	7,840	12,309
Sutton	5,637	6,621
Tower Hamlets	5,126	9,928
Waltham Forest	8,005	10,605
Wandsworth	7,902	10,783
Westminster	11,780	10,757

Fuel Poverty: Pensioners

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people eligible for the state pension were living in fuel poverty in each of the last five years. [80016]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the number of fuel-poor households in England containing someone aged 60 or over in each of the years 2005 to 2009 (the latest year for which this information is currently available).

	Number of fuel poor households containing someone aged 60 or over in England (Thousand)
2005	794
2006	1,285
2007	1,462
2008	1,720
2009	2,044

Fuel poverty is measured in households rather than individuals.

Green Deal Scheme

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emission reductions which will be attributable to the Green Deal; and what contribution he expects this to make to meeting the UK's climate change targets. [79980]

Gregory Barker: An impact assessment soon to be published alongside our consultation proposals for Green Deal will include estimates of the emissions reductions attributable to the policy.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on measures to compensate those who have ordered a solar photovoltaic installation but cannot meet the deadlines set out in phase 1 of the comprehensive review of feed-in tariffs. [79893]

Gregory Barker: The consultation explains that the six-week period from publication date to 12 December (the reference date) will allow many prospective generators, particularly householders, who have made a financial, commitment to installing PV (for example, paying a deposit) to complete their installations and receive the current tariffs.

We recognise though that some prospective FITs generators who have incurred or committed expenditure may not be able to complete their installations and submit their applications for FITs before the proposed reference date. In forming the proposal, we have taken into account the possibility of hardship to persons in this situation. However, on balance, we consider that the proposed approach is reasonable, given a number of factors. These include the urgency of the concerns about the impact on the scheme's budget of continuing high levels of uptake at the current tariffs, including any rush of new installations triggered by the consultation. In addition, the proposed new tariffs are designed to provide a reasonable rate of return in line with those intended when the scheme was first introduced. The FITs scheme was never intended to provide windfall profits, paid for by energy consumers in general, and in the current climate we regard the returns expected for FIT generators under the proposed new tariffs to be reasonable. The Government do not intend to provide compensation for those who miss the deadline.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Adam Werritty

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his *(a)* private office and *(b)* special advisers have received email communications from Mr Adam Werritty since May 2010. [78280]

Mr Hague: No emails have been received by special advisers. One email was received by the Private Office which referred to a company that was already in touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and no further action was taken as a result.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women from his Department will attend the Bonn Conference in December; and what the level of seniority is of attendees in each category. [79001]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), will lead the UK delegation to the Bonn Conference in December. The full composition of the delegation has yet to be finalised, but we are working on a role for the Government's International Violence Against Women Champion at the Conference.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011. [78068]

Mr Lidington: As regards internal legal advice, the bulk of this is done by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Legal Advisers who are permanent members of the diplomatic service. It is not possible to quantify a precise figure for this aspect of the costs of internal legal advice. However, in addition, in relation to litigation and some other matters FCO instructs the Treasury Solicitor's Department. Fees paid to the Treasury Solicitor's Department for their professional fees in the first six months of 2011 totalled £373,740.

As regards external legal advice from external counsel, in litigation matters in the UK the FCO has expended £514,408 in Counsel's fees in the first six months of 2011. In relation to external legal advice in non-contentious matters (e.g. property and contractual matters) the FCO has paid a further £551,224 in the first six months of 2011.

We do not hold a central record of expenditure on advice on other matters, including international litigation and legal advice obtained locally by our network of diplomatic posts. This information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79566]

Mr Lidington: No ordinary written answer, or written answer on a named day, has remained unanswered for a period of two months, that is, 60 sitting days.

Ethnic Groups: Treaties

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plans to ratify International Labour Organisation Convention 169 on the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples; and if he will make a statement. [79756]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are fully committed to promoting and protecting human rights for all individuals, including indigenous people, without discrimination on any grounds. We continue to work overseas and through the UN to improve the situation of indigenous people around the world.

International Labour Organisation Convention 169 sets out a framework for how governments should act with regard to indigenous and tribal people within their own territories. To date the UK has not ratified the convention as we do not consider that the UK or its overseas territories have any indigenous people to whom it would apply. We are also of the view that the convention does not apply extra-territorially. For these reasons, we would not be able to give effect to the convention. However, I have asked officials to look again in detail at our position to reassure ourselves that it is the right one.

Sudan

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on IRG, what the engagements were of the Under-Secretary of State during his visit to Sudan in July 2010. [79816]

Mr Bellingham: During my visit to Sudan from 25-27 July 2011, I met a number of Ministers from the Government of Sudan, some of whom are now in the Government of South Sudan. I also met senior Sudanese business people, INGO groups and staff serving in the British embassy and Department for International Development office in Khartoum. I also visited a Department for International Development funded centre for women's vocational training.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on IRG, what travel advice his Department issued to UK citizens travelling to Sudan in July 2010. [79818]

Mr Bellingham: We regularly update our travel advice to reflect the situation in Sudan and, now, South Sudan. In July 2010 we advised against all travel to the Red Sea State border with Eritrea; within 40 km of South Sudan's borders; and Darfur, including Nyala but excluding El Geneina and El Fasher. We also advised against all but essential travel to El Geneina and El Fasher in Darfur; Abyei in Southern Kordofan; all parts of south Sudan (including Juba); and areas west of the towns of an-Nahud and al-Fula in North Kordofan up to the Darfur border. The advice also made other recommendations, much as it does today, on the political, security, crime and travel situations, as well as other general topics. It was posted on the FCO travel advice website as is usual.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on IRG, what the purpose was of the visit to Sudan by the Under-Secretary of State in July 2010. [79819]

Mr Bellingham: I visited Khartoum and Juba in July 2010 as part of the UK Government's leading role in supporting preparations for the South Sudan secession referendum that took place in January 2011. During this visit I also discussed trade and investment issues, Darfur and future peace and prosperity for the Sudanese people.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on IRG, what the nature was of the Under-Secretary of State's conversation with Stephen Crouch when they met in Sudan in July 2010. [79820]

Mr Bellingham: I was approached by Mr Crouch at Juba airport where he briefly set out the commercial activity he was undertaking in South Sudan. This encounter was not pre-arranged and did not lead to or generate any formal follow up.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on IRG, what the name is of each person who travelled with the Under-Secretary of State on his visit to Sudan in July 2010. [79821]

Mr Bellingham: On my visit to Sudan in July 2010 I was accompanied from London by my Private Secretary at the time, my Press Officer at the time and the UK Special Representative for Sudan, Michael Ryder. I was also accompanied by the ambassador to Sudan, Nick Kay and other officials from the British embassy while in Sudan.

DEFENCE

Defence Equipment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaydon of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1167W, on defence equipment, to which destinations in north-west Europe deliveries by special courier were made in 2010-11. [77528]

Peter Luff: None. In 2010-11 all high priority requests for equipment to north-west Europe were undertaken using scheduled transport routes.

The answer I gave on 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1167W, to the hon. Member for Blaydon (Mr Anderson) contained factual errors. It should have said:

> An enabling arrangement is in place with City Sprint for the delivery of urgently required equipment such as aircraft components and medical stores anywhere in the UK. In 2010-11, 13,995 deliveries were tasked under this arrangement. These predominantly related to ongoing operations.

Defence Equipment: Gibraltar

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the monetary value was of each of the surplus vessels and items of equipment that have been sold by tender in Gibraltar; [79245]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 258-59W, on Defence equipment: Gibraltar, what the reserve price is of the surplus vessels and equipment for sale by tender in Gibraltar. [79246]

Peter Luff: The process to sell surplus vessels and equipment in Gibraltar is still ongoing. The reserve price will be determined during the evaluation process.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters have been damaged by brownout in the latest period for which figures are available. [76217]

Peter Luff: No helicopters have been damaged specifically by brownout, however brownout can cause pilots to lose their visual references, which may result in air safety incidents, leading to damage being caused.

The number of reported incidents (of varying degrees of damage) that may be attributable to brownout factors for each year since April 2009 is shown in the following table:

	Incidents and repair category					
	Category 0	*Category 1*	*Category 2*	*Category 3*	*Category 4*	*Total*
2009	0	2	1	0	2	5
2010	8	3	0	1	2	14
2011	0	4	0	0	0	4
Total	8	9	1	1	4	23

Repair categories are defined as follows:

0 = No notable damage.

1 = The aircraft is repairable within the aircraft custodian's capabilities.

2 = The aircraft is repairable within a forward maintenance organisation capabilities.

3 = The aircraft is repairable on site but the work is considered to be beyond their forward maintenance organisation capability.

4 = The aircraft is repairable but it is considered to need special facilities or equipment not available on site.

Some of the incidents are under investigation through service inquiries, and the final repair category may change in these cases.

Navy

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 405W, on the Navy, whether any ships were reckoned under the heading Other equipment (Royal Navy) given in the answer; and if so, what the name is of each ship disposed of. [78700]

Peter Luff: The assets listed under the heading "Other Equipment" included equipment declared surplus from ships which remain in service.

The Royal Navy ships declared surplus in the financial year ending 31 March 2011 and included under the heading "Other Equipment (Royal Navy)" are provided in the following table:

	Date of decision	*Date decommissioned*
HMS Ark Royal	October 2010	March 2011
HMS Cambletown	October 2010	April 2011
HMS Cornwall	October 2010	April 2011
HMS Cumberland	October 2010	April 2011
HMS Chatham	October 2010	January 2011
HMS Exeter	Early 2007	May 2009
HMS Invincible	Pre 2007	September 2010
HMS Nottingham	Early 2008	February 2010
HMS Roebuck	January 2010	January 2010
HMS Southampton	Early 2008	February 2009

Disposal action is not yet complete for all the vessels listed.

In addition to those ships listed above, HMS Sceptre, HMS Superb, HMS Trafalgar and HMS Triumph have also been declared surplus. They will be kept in storage and disposed of through the submarine dismantling project in due course.

EDUCATION

Carers: Grandparents

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision his Department has made to support grandparents who are the primary carers of their grandchildren; whether any support is planned during the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [78673]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has published statutory guidance on family and friends care which came into force in April 2011.

The guidance sets out the framework for the provision of support to family and friends carers and includes a requirement for local authorities to publicise the support and services available locally.

Children's Centres: Closures

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of closures of Sure Start children's centres since April 2010. [70252]

Sarah Teather: The Department has been consulting with local authorities about the number of Sure Start children's centres they have in their areas.

Special Advisers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether Mr Dominic Cummings issued instructions to civil servants prior to his appointment as special adviser; [74543]

(2) whether Mr Dominic Cummings was involved in discussions concerning his Department's budget prior to his appointment as special adviser. [74545]

Tim Loughton: Civil servants only take instructions from Ministers (via Private Offices) and more senior civil servants.

Decisions on budget allocations are made by Ministers on the basis of advice from civil servants. The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) considers a wide range of evidence and has discussions with a wide range of parties in coming to a view on funding priorities, and this has been the case both before and after the appointment of Mr Cummings as a special adviser.

Grandparents

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* meetings he has had with the Grandparents' Association; what issues were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [78741]

Tim Loughton: This Department has had no recent representations from, or meetings with, the Grandparents' Association.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [76398]

Tim Loughton: Legal advice to the Department for Education and its predecessors, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Department for Education and Skills, is provided primarily by the Department's Legal Directorate. The cost, rounded to the nearest pound, of running Legal Directorate is set out in the following table. The Legal Directorate provided a shared service to the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills from June 2007 to November 2009, and the figures provided include these costs.

	£
2007-08	4,850,186
2008-09	4,765,905
2009-10	4,627,417
2010-11	3,110,793
April-September 2011	2,426,148

The Department does not keep a separate record of the amount spent instructing counsel each year, so extracting this information from the Department's central payment system could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not keep a single central record of the number of claims brought against it each year or the number of times a decision it has taken has been challenged by way of judicial review. The Department is aware of six judicial review cases which have been brought against the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) in the first six months of 2011. Of these applications, two have either been withdrawn or permission to seek judicial review has been refused, and four are proceeding. In the absence of central records, to provide any further information on claims brought and their outcomes could be done only at disproportionate cost.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has reviewed the administration of the fruit for schools scheme; and which organisation is responsible for the scheme's administration. [78541]

Sarah Teather: The school fruit and vegetable scheme falls under the remit of the Department of Health. The scheme is administered by NHS Supply Chain, under a service level agreement to the Department of Health, and is subject to regular review.

School Sports

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department plans to allocate to school sport in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [78419]

Tim Loughton: The Government have protected school funding at flat cash per pupil, before adding the new pupil premium. The pupil premium is totally in addition to this and will be worth £2.5 billion by 2014-15, to support the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. Funding for PE and sport is not ring-fenced within that and it is for schools to decide the appropriate amount to spend on what is an integral part of the rounded education that they should provide for all pupils.

On top of that, the Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced transitional funding of £65 million to release secondary PE teachers for one day a week to work with local primary schools to embed the best practice from the previous PE and sport strategy and to promote more competitive sport. This funding is broken down by academic year as follows: 2011/12—£32.5 million; and 2012/13—£32.5 million.

The Department for Education has also agreed the following sport-related grants in 2011-12: Sport England Disability—£3.0 million; Sport England Volunteer Coaches and Leaders—£1.0 million; LOCOG Get Set—£1.5 million; and Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassadors—£0.75 million. No decisions have yet been made on grants for future years.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the performance of the Youth Sport Trust in increasing participation in *(a)* general school sports and games activities, *(b)* intra-school sports competition and *(c)* inter-school sports competition in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [78420]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has acknowledged the role of the Youth Sport Trust in advising successive Governments on physical education and school sport. He has also acknowledged that, with the support of the Youth Sport Trust, schools have been able to raise levels of participation in PE and sport in areas targeted by the previous Government. The Secretary of State for Education has thanked, publicly, Baroness Campbell and the staff of the Trust, as well as the schools themselves, for their hard work in this respect.

The Government recognises the good work that school sport partnerships and national bodies such as the Youth Sport Trust, Sport England, the Association for Physical Education, SportsCoach UK and many national governing bodies of sport, have done in supporting sport in schools. The Government are working with these bodies to promote more competitive sport in schools through the creation and roll out of the School Games.

Schools: Eggs

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has issued guidelines to schools on their buying criteria to ensure eggs produced in conventional cages should not be used in any form. [78570]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

The greater proportion of food procured by local authorities is for schools. DEFRA is working with the Department for Education, the School Food Trust and the major local authority buying organisations, in particular those in the PRO 5 consortium, and others to embed the Government Buying Standards (GBS), as they are developed, into national procurement frameworks for food and catering services.

Mandatory GBS criteria currently bans the use of fresh (in-shell) eggs from conventional cage systems. If a cage system is used they should be enriched cages. In light of the forthcoming EU ban on conventional cages, we intend to extend this mandatory criteria to cover all liquid and powdered egg products, which are currently in voluntary best practice criteria.

The Government believe that their role is to set a credible and workable example for the wider public sector to follow, and it is this that the GBS is designed to deliver. All public bodies have a different set of requirements and the local people most closely connected with them, staff, patients, governors, will have different priorities, making them best placed to decide how to achieve the objectives we are aiming for.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effects of the transposition into UK law of the EU directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. [79826]

Lynne Featherstone: European directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes is to be implemented in United Kingdom legislation on 1 January 2013. A detailed assessment of the impact of its provisions is under way following the public consultation on options for transposition which closed on 5 September 2011.

We are now analysing the responses to the public consultation on the options for transposition and will publish a summary report by the end of 2011.

Cyber-Crime

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her assessment is of the adequacy of the priority given by the National Security Strategy to the threat posed to the UK by cyber-crime. [79782]

James Brokenshire: The National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review prioritised the cyber-threat as one of the top four threats facing the UK (Tier 1). According to Dettica, in their report 'The Cost of Cyber Crime', cyber-crime alone costs the UK economy £27 billion a year. Because of the scale and complexity of this threat to our national security, combating cyber-crime will be an important part of the Government's forthcoming cyber-security strategy.

The Government have committed £650 million over the next four years to help protect the UK in cyber-space, including £63 million specifically to tackle computer-enabled crime.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the current measures in place to enable businesses to *(a)* report cyber-crime and *(b)* gain police assistance in cases of cyber-crime. [79822]

James Brokenshire: £63 million has been allocated by the National Cyber Security Programme to strengthen the UK's response to cyber-crime, in addition to existing resources. The Action Fraud service currently takes crime and information reports of fraud from businesses and individuals and passes them to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) for action. The Action Fraud service will shortly be expanded to include financially-motivated cyber-crime types. Action Fraud will provide a single means for enabling businesses and individuals to report financially-motivated cyber-crime. We will also build on the expertise of the Police Central e-Crime Unit (PCeU) and SOCA's e-crime unit to create a specialist cyber-crime unit within the National Crime Agency and to help mainstream capacity to tackle cyber issues across police forces.

Get Safe Online, a joint Government and industry initiative to raise awareness of internet safety, provides advice and guidance to help individuals and businesses to protect themselves online. Its website is:

www.getsafeonline.org

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the use of dogs in instances of *(a)* gang and *(b)* youth violence. [79445]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has not made an assessment of the use of dogs in instances of gang and youth violence. However, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has made it a priority to look at the complex issue of dangerous dogs, including in relation to gangs, which we recognise is an increasingly important issue for the public. DEFRA are currently considering a package of measures to address this issue and will shortly announce a range of proposals.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her strategy on gang and youth violence will take account of the use of dogs in acts of violence. [79446]

James Brokenshire: As part of our strategy to reduce gang and youth violence, we are planning to introduce later this year gang injunctions for under 18s. Gang injunctions for over 18s are already in place and can be used to prohibit someone from being in charge of, or in a particular place with, a particular species of dog. We are also planning to introduce Criminal Behaviour Orders and Crime Prevention Injunctions which will apply to under 18s and could contain prohibitions and requirements which relate to antisocial or dangerous dogs. For example the court could order that a dog had to be kept muzzled in public, or that an owner had to attend dog training classes, if this was required to prevent future antisocial behaviour involving dogs.

Demonstrations: Costs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on recovering policing costs from the organisers of demonstrations. [79921]

Nick Herbert: The police do not levy a charge for the policing of marches or protests. For any protests or marches which require a significant police presence, the police force is able to apply for a special grant to assist them with the costs of the operation, subject to the operation meeting certain criteria.

Deportation: Children

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the use of control and restraint on children in pre-departure accommodation. [78791]

Damian Green: Detainee custody officers (DCOs) must be certificated by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to carry out their duties and to exercise powers, one of the conditions of which is that they have undergone training on restraint techniques approved by the National Offender Management Service. Officers receive refresher training every 12 months. Separate training is provided for those involved in the overseas escorting of children, using non-pain compliant techniques, Physical Control in Care (PCC).

Restraint on a child is only ever used where it is strictly necessary to prevent self-harm or to protect others and property. In very exceptional circumstances officers may be given authority to physically intervene to enforce a child's removal where, despite attempts to persuade them to comply, they refuse to do so. Interventions may start with guiding or shepherding, before PCC techniques are used.

There have been no such interventions at Cedars pre-departure accommodation.

This information is based on management information, and is not subject to the detailed checks carried out for National Statistics. It is provisional and subject to change. A child is defined as a person aged under 18 years of age.

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces permit persons identified as having exceeded the speed limit to attend a driving safety course in lieu of penalty points; and if she will make a statement. [R] [78681]

Nick Herbert: All forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland except Wiltshire police currently provide some kind of speed awareness course. Wiltshire police are at an advanced stage of a procurement exercise for provision of a course. The offer of a course is a matter for police discretion.

Firearms: Licensing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal firearms were confiscated in each of the last five years. [79946]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Home Office Guidance

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to finalise proposals for a revision of Home Office circular 46/2004. [80143]

Nick Herbert: The Police Negotiating Board has been discussing proposals for revised guidance on the issues covered in Home Office Circular 46/2004. We expect to conclude these discussions early next year.

Immigration

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it takes to return documents to an individual who has been granted leave to remain. [79629]

Damian Green: Although the UK Border Agency records this information on the Case Information Database (CID) it would require a case by case search to retrieve the information. Given the volumes of cases involved this would exceed the cost threshold.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many police areas people arrested for offences are routinely asked whether they have served in the armed forces; and whether in such cases they are directed to relevant welfare agencies. [79926]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office imposes no such requirements on police forces.

Passports: Fraud

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of passport fraud Passport Office staff have detected in each of the last five years. [79831]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) figures for passport frauds detected in each of the last of five years are shown in the following table. These figures include confirmed frauds, probable frauds and possible frauds.

	IPS detected frauds total
2006-07	6,108
2007-08	9,382
2008-09	9,254
2009-10	7,344
2010-11	7,870

Police

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police from Nottinghamshire are being seconded to London 2012 policing; and what steps will be taken to cover any gap in local policing. [80041]

Nick Herbert: While detailed planning continues and the final resource requirements will not be confirmed until early 2012, it is anticipated that a small number of Olympic venue forces, including Dorset, Surrey and the Metropolitan Police Service, are likely to require a level of additional support in the form of officers supplied under mutual aid arrangements.

Requests for mutual aid will be co-ordinated through the Association of Chief Police Officers, Police National Information and Co-ordination Centre (ACPO PNICC). It is expected that all non-venue forces across the UK, including Nottinghamshire Police, will be asked to supply resources to the national operation and PNICC will ensure that resource requests are proportionate to the relative size and capacity of the providing force.

Donor forces will be reimbursed in accordance with the prevailing mutual aid arrangements, which will allow the Chief Constable to choose to backfill abstracted officers, thereby mitigating any potential impact on local service delivery.

Police: Finance

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value is of financial reserves held by each police authority. [78944]

Nick Herbert: This information is available on each police authority's website and on the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) website.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff will be employed by the *(a)* Cardiff Location Immigration Team (LIT), *(b)* South West LIT, *(c)* Gwent and North Wales LIT and *(d)* South West Wales LIT in each year between 2010 and 2015. [78562]

Damian Green: The following table sets out the available information for staffing in these teams. Forward planning for 2012-15 is not yet available at this level of detail.

South West (LIT)s	*31 October 2010[1] FTE[2]*	*31 March 2011 FTE*	*30 September 2011 FTE*
(a) Cardiff Location Immigration Team (LIT)	71	64	66
(b) South West LIT[3]	76	82	74
(c) Gwent and North Wales LIT	14	17	33
(d) South West Wales LIT	21	21	21
Total LITs	182	184	194

[1] Work force is only recorded centrally under this name in the South West Region from December 2010.
[2] Full-time equivalent actuals, excluding staff on unpaid maternity leave, career break, special leave, or loan to other Government Departments.
[3] Bristol, Devon, and Dorset LITs.

JUSTICE

Chief Coroner

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account he has taken of the proportion of responses to his consultation on the Public Bodies Bill *(a)* for and *(b)* against including the Office of Chief Coroner in the Bill. [79832]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry is currently considering the responses to the consultation and the weight that should be given to these.

The Government intend to publish their response to the consultation by the end of the year.

Community Orders: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the charges made by the community payback teams to voluntary organisations in communities which benefit from the visits and the work carried out; and if he will make a statement. [79894]

Mr Blunt: At the present time probation trusts are responsible for the provision of community payback. A number of trusts do seek contributions from selected beneficiary organisations towards the costs of delivering the sentence. No assessment has been made of the impact of these charges. Future delivery of community payback will be subject to competition, which has commenced with London. The competition process will ensure that community payback will more effectively serve the needs of public and local communities.

Crimes of Violence: Sentencing

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy that when sentencing guidelines for assault state that an aggravating factor should be given for offences committed against those working in the public sector or providing a service to the public, this should include *(a)* retailers and *(b)* retail staff. [79881]

Mr Blunt: Sentencing guidelines are issued by the Sentencing Council, which is independent from Government. The Sentencing Council's guideline on assault offences includes an aggravating factor of the offence being committed against those working in the public sector or providing a service to the public. The Council intentionally worded this factor in such a way that the courts could interpret it widely. As a result, it would include retailers and retail staff in relevant cases.

This aggravating factor applies to the following offences within the assault guideline:

Grievous bodily harm with intent
Grievous bodily harm
Actual bodily harm
Common assault.

Cyber-crime: Convictions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of cyber-crimes perpetrated against businesses in each of the last three years. [79781]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to identify from these centrally held data those proceedings arising from offences perpetrated against businesses in which a computer or network were used in the commissioning of the offence.

Parliamentary Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79564]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Special advisers in my Department do not routinely see draft answers before they are seen by Ministers, and they never interfere with answers once the relevant Minister has signed them.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79562]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information requested is contained in the attached table. This table is accurate as of 8 November 2011.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Ministry of Justice: Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day

	On time	Up to five days late	Up to 10 days late	Up to 20 days late	Over 30 days late	Total
May 2010	0	0	0	0	0	0
June 2010	41	0	0	0	0	41
July 2010	52	0	0	0	0	52
August 2010	0	0	0	0	0	0
September 2010	16	1	0	0	0	17
October 2010	45	1	0	0	0	46
November 2010	70	0	1	0	0	71
December 2010	40	0	0	0	0	40

Ministry of Justice: Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day

	On time	Up to five days late	Up to 10 days late	Up to 20 days late	Over 30 days late	Total
January 2011	82	3	0	0	0	85
February 2011	66	0	0	0	0	66
March 2011	83	2	0	0	0	85
April 2011	16	0	0	0	0	16
May 2011	27	0	0	0	0	27
June 2011	87	3	5	1	0	96
July 2011	63	1	0	0	0	64
August 2011	0	0	0	0	0	0
September 2011	43	2	0	1	0	46
October 2011	58	2	0	0	0	60
November 2011	17	1	0	0	0	18

Notes:

1. In this table, days means days on which the house of Commons was sitting.
2. The figures have been drawn from the Ministry of Justice parliamentary questions database, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79563]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: No parliamentary question asked of my Department has remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the length of time for an appeal to be heard in respect of a reduction in a claimant's disability living allowance. [79935]

Mr Djanogly: Appeals against decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions on an individual's entitlement to disability living allowance (DLA) are heard by the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support). The tribunal does not record the issue under appeal and, therefore, cannot isolate appeals made in respect of reductions in DLA.

The average length of time taken from receipt of a DLA appeal to the clearance or disposal of a case in September 2011 (the latest period for which statistics have been published) was 28.2 weeks. This figure includes cases that were decided by a tribunal hearing and those that were disposed of by other means (such as being withdrawn, superseded or struck out).

Prison Sentences

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made on the review of the sentence of imprisonment for public protection; and if he will make a statement. [79807]

Mr Blunt: On 26 October the Government tabled amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill taking forward changes to sentencing for dangerous offenders. The Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentence will be replaced with a new regime which will include the following measures:

> Mandatory life sentences—a 'two strikes' policy so that a mandatory life sentence will be given to anyone convicted of a second very serious sexual or violent crime.
>
> The extended determinate sentence (EDS)—dangerous offenders convicted of serious sexual and violent crimes will be imprisoned for at least two-thirds of their sentence. Offenders convicted of the most serious sexual and violent crimes in this category will not be released before the end of their sentence without Parole Board approval.
>
> Offenders who complete an EDS must then serve extended licence periods where they will be closely monitored and returned to prison if necessary. The courts have the power to give up to an extra five years of licence for violent offenders and eight years for sexual offenders on top of their custodial term.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average annual cost to the public purse was of a prison place in England and Wales for the latest year for which information is available; [79387]

(2) whether the calculation of the cost of a prison place in England and Wales includes expenditure on health, education and probation services. [79388]

Mr Blunt: The average annual overall cost of a prison place in England and Wales for financial year 2010-11 is £39,573 as published in the National Offender Management Service annual reports of 2010-11 under Management Information Addendum.

This is the latest period for which figures are available. Cost per prison place is overall resource expressed in terms of the Baseline Certified Normal Accommodation number of places. The overall cost also includes prison related overheads met centrally by NOMS. This includes some estimation.

The calculation for cost of a prison place is based on net expenditure related to prisons included in the annual accounts of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and does not include expenditure which is met by other Government Departments, such as expenditure on health and education. In prisons managed by the private sector, health and education costs are generally met by NOMS and so are included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.

Any expenditure met directly by the Youth Justice Board is not included.

Expenditure on probation services is not included, except where probation staff are seconded to prisons.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) provides both physical resources and staff to support educational activities and employment support for prisoners. Some employment support is delivered in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions. Training for prisoners is delivered mainly by Prison Service staff, while prisoners work or are engaged in various areas such as prison industries, catering, physical education, land based activities, industrial cleaning and laundries. Expenditure on services provided by NOMS is included.

TREASURY

Arms Trade: North Africa

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sums in loans *(a)* lent and *(b)* guaranteed by the Government to the former Government of Egypt for the purchase of UK arms the Government are now seeking repayment for; and what arms of what monetary value were bought in each case. [78364]

Mr Hoban: Egypt currently owes £93.1 million to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD). This amount arose as a result of claims following defaults by obligors in Egypt in the 1970s and 1980s. The debt was rescheduled in 1986 and 1991 through Paris Club agreements, leading to 50% of the outstanding debt being written off. It is not possible to disaggregate from the current debt that part which relates to any specific original claim.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which countries in North Africa and the Middle East, other than Egypt, the Government are now seeking the repayment of loans made by, or guaranteed by, the British Government for the purchase of UK arms prior to the Arab Spring. [78363]

Mr Hoban: Only Iraq and Iran in the Middle East and North Africa region (excluding Egypt) have outstanding debts to the UK Government, where the original claims relate to the purchase of defence equipment from UK exporters. For Iran these claims relate to export transactions prior to its revolution in 1979. For Iraq these claims relate to transactions over the 1970s and 1980s. Iraq received substantial debt relief and rescheduling of these claims in 2005 and it is not possible to disaggregate from the current debt that part which relates to any specific original claim.

Parliamentary Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79546]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Code of Conduct for Special Advisers states that a special adviser may review papers going to ministers and give assistance on any aspect of departmental business.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010; [79544]

(2) how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79545]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session are available on the Parliament website.

The information requested is not available. However the most up to date statistics, in the form requested by the Procedure Committee, are set out in the following table:

Time period	*Named day written PQs answered since May 2010*
On time	813
Five days late	301
10 days late	105

Individual Savings Accounts: Environment Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to introduce individual savings accounts that encourage investment in green industries. [80040]

Mr Hoban: The Government are undertaking analysis into how investment in green industries can be increased. The ISA market is competitive and a number of providers have chosen to offer green, environmental or ethical ISAs.

The Government are currently considering how best to encourage additional investment in green infrastructure through the Green Investment Bank, and proposals on this were announced in Budget 2011 and further details in May 2011.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional cost to the public purse in cash terms will arise from the Government commitment, announced on 2 November 2011, that individuals within 10 years of receiving their public sector pension on 1 April 2012 will see no change in when they can retire nor any decrease in the pension they receive at their normal pension age. [79452]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 8 November 2011]*: The Government have set out an objective that those public service workers who, as of 1 April 2012, have 10 years or less to their current pension age see no change in when they can retire, nor any decrease in the amount of pension they receive at their current normal pension age.

Schemes and unions will discuss the fairest way of achieving this objective, taking full account of equalities impacts and legislation, and within the Government's parameter that costs to the taxpayer in each and every year do not exceed the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts for public service pensions.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the assumptions used to calculate the values in Table 2.A of Public Service pensions: good pensions that last, what estimate he has made of the effect in financial terms of a switch from retail prices index to consumer prices index indexation on *(a)* a nurse retiring on £34,200 per annum, *(b)* a teacher retiring on £37,800 per annum, *(c)* a local government officer retiring on £21,500 per annum, *(d)* a civil servant retiring on £29,800 per annum and *(e)* a health assistant retiring on £14,600 per annum. [R] [79616]

Danny Alexander: The Government announced in the June 2010 Budget that their policy would be to use the consumer prices index (CPI) instead of the retail prices index (RPI) to uprate many benefits and pensions, including public service pensions. Both Houses of Parliament approved this policy decision.

Calculating the figures in Table 2A of 'Public Service pensions: good pensions that last', based on an assumption of RPI as the uprating measure rather than CPI, produces the following estimates:

£

	Final salary	*Value of pension benefits from CARE with 1/60ths accrual*	*Equivalent pension pot*
Nurse	34,200	22,800	650,000
Teacher	37,800	25,200	725,000
Civil Servant	29,800	24,300	700,000
L.G. Officer	21,500	17,500	500,000
Health Assistant	14,600	11,900	350,000

Note:
All data and assumptions except the uprating measure are the same as those used in 'Public Service pensions: good pensions that last'.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of writing to people affected by planned changes to public sector pensions. [79796]

Danny Alexander: All employers, be they in the public or private sector, are responsible for informing their workforce about changes to their reward packages. Government Departments and public service employers are implementing their own communications activity on pensions reform. The activity is tailored directly to the needs of their staff and includes letters but also communication via other channels, such as e-mail and websites.

We have no central estimate of the extra cost incurred as a result writing to staff, given that many letters will be received through internal post systems and in electronic form. Government Departments have not received any additional funding for this purpose.

The Government are working with the wide range of public service employers to support this communications work. Her Majesty's Treasury has also published web pages that provide information about the proposed reforms to public service pensions, which will be kept up to date.

Revenue and Customs

Paul Uppal: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to improve efficiency and customer relations in the last 12 months. [79321]

Mr Gauke: In the last 12 months HMRC has been setting and mobilising its plans to deliver its Spending Review 2010 commitments. These are maximising revenue flows, improving customer experience and reducing costs in a sustainable way. More detail is included in HMRC's Change Plan (published in February 2011) and Business Plan 2011-15 (published in May 2011).

HMRC has established a Change Programme to manage and report on progress and delivery.

Taxation: Multinational Companies

Paul Uppal: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a multilateral agreement to require multinational mining companies to be more transparent in their overseas tax affairs. [79359]

Mr Gauke: The Government support EU action to develop a reporting system for the extractives sector that matches the standards in the Dodd Frank legislation in the US. On 25 October the European Commission adopted two proposals in this area: the Accounting Directive and the Transparency Directive.

VAT: Sports

Mr Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors he took into account when taking the decision to change the VAT status of sports clubs. [79480]

Mr Gauke: There has been no change to the VAT status of sports clubs.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* he, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78658]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all Ministers external meetings are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Information for other officials' meetings is not held centrally.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78849]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all external meetings are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Information for other officials' meetings is not held centrally.

Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's research and development budget was in each of the last five years; and what that budget will be for each year of the spending review period. [78838]

Mr Duncan: The DFID central research budget in each of the last five years and for each year of the spending review period is given in the following table.

	£ million
2006-07	110
2007-08	130
2008-09	125
2009-10	177
20010-11	203
20011-12	201
2012-13	229
2013-14	305
2014-15	320

Developing Countries: Taxation

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is giving to developing countries to ensure that tax is collected efficiently and effectively. [79322]

Mr Duncan: The Government are helping to strengthen tax systems in a number of developing countries, including Burundi, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sierra Leone. Support varies from country to country. In Burundi, development assistance through a multi-donor effort is helping to establish an independent Revenue Authority. Over the first nine months of 2011, revenue was 37% above the same period in 2010. In both Bangladesh and Sierra Leone our development assistance is helping to establish a unit to manage large taxpayers. In Bangladesh it is also helping to strengthen the audit function and in Sierra Leone it includes help with introducing new computer systems.

Kyrgyzstan: Overseas Aid

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* delivery of humanitarian aid provided by his Department to Kyrgyzstan in the last three years. [79299]

Mr Duncan: In February 2009, DFID contributed £650,000 to the United Nations 2008 Flash Appeal for the Kyrgyz Republic. The appeal aimed to help support the needs of some two million people as well as to ensure continuation of essential services. DFID's support was provided to: (a) the World Food Programme (WFP) to ensure food access for the 580,000 most vulnerable people (£500,000); and (b) the Office of the UN Resident Co-ordinator in Bishkek to strengthen its co-ordination capacity for implementation of the Flash Appeal and design and implementation of early recovery programmes (£150,000).

In 2010, following the violent conflict in the South of Kyrgyzstan, DFID did not directly fund the UN appeal, but made a contribution through a number of international organisations, including: (a) the UN Central Emergency Fund (CERF) which allocated $8 million in response to the situation; and (b) the European Commission which earmarked up to €5 million for emergency aid on top of €6 million allocated from its Instrument for Stability in response to the initial unrest in April 2010 (the UK provided approximately 15% of this EU expenditure).

I have deposited in the Library of the House copies of the UN Flash Appeal 2008 Final Report and Lessons Learned (2009), WFP's Post Distribution Report (October 2009) and UNDP's Report on Addressing Energy, Food and Economic Insecurities in Kyrgyzstan (November 2009).

Somaliland: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on projects in Somaliland in the last 12 months. [77074]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: British aid in Somaliland aims to produce results in governance and peace building, maternal and child health, job creation and humanitarian assistance. Some of the results achieved over the past year include:

7,400 new jobs created over the last 12 months as a result of increased farming activities.

3,000 malnourished children treated and clean water provided to 50,000.

7,000 court cases handled due to improved legal systems within the Somaliland Government.

Britain has provided over £14 million to support projects in Somaliland in the last 12 months.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Mr Jon Moulton and (vi) Mr Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78659]

Chris Grayling: Information relating to meetings between external organisations and this Department's Ministers' and Permanent Secretary is published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Links to the relevant pages are as follows:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ministers-meetings-overseas.shtml

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ps-meetings-external-orgs.shtml

Information for other officials' meetings is not held centrally.

Construction: Jarrow

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the construction industry were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in the workplace in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [79413]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows the numbers of reportable fatal and non-fatal injuries to workers in the construction industry. This does not include deaths in the workplace unrelated to work activities. The available geographic data do not allow the constituency of Jarrow to be identified.

Fatal and non-fatal injuries to workers in the construction industry[1] as reported to all enforcing authorities 1997-98 to 2010-11[2]

	South Tyneside[3]		*North East[4]*		*Great Britain[5]*	
	Employees	*Self-employed*	*Employees*	*Self-employed*	*Employees*	*Self-employed*
Fatal injuries						
1997-98	—	—	2	1	58	22
1998-99	—	—	—	—	47	18
1999-2000	—	—	—	—	61	20
2000-01	—	—	1	—	73	32
2001-02	—	—	8	—	60	20
2002-03	—	—	3	—	56	14
2003-04	—	1	4	1	52	19
2004-05	—	—	1	1	55	14
2005-06	—	—	3	1	43	17
2006-07	—	—	1	1	54	25
2007-08	—	—	—	—	53	19
2008-09	—	—	2	1	32	20
2009-10	—	—	1	—	29	12
2010-11[2]	—	—	1	1	32	18
Non-fatal major injuries						
1997-98	6	—	203	2	3,860	466
1998-99	7	—	211	6	4,289	367
1999-2000	5	—	229	3	4,386	363
2000-01	16	—	210	4	4,303	405
2001-02	4	—	188	8	4,068	541
2002-03	13	—	190	16	4,040	694
2003-04	12	—	194	14	3,997	753
2004-05	4	—	182	13	3,797	732
2005-06	7	—	170	22	3,725	775
2006-07	6	4	153	25	3,742	732
2007-08	8	—	185	14	3,727	711
2008-09	5	1	162	18	3,318	632
2009-10	12	—	134	14	2,601	544
2010-11[2]	3	—	112	20	2,298	559
Over-three-day-injuries						
1997-98	47	—	824	—	9,756	509
1998-99	34	1	619	7	9,195	381
1999-2000	17	—	678	4	10,159	345

Fatal and non-fatal injuries to workers in the construction industry[1] as reported to all enforcing authorities 1997-98 to 2010-11[2]

	South Tyneside[3]		*North East[4]*		*Great Britain[5]*	
	Employees	*Self-employed*	*Employees*	*Self-employed*	*Employees*	*Self-employed*
2000-01	34	1	683	6	9,367	429
2001-02	22	—	603	15	9,141	596
2002-03	15	—	664	21	8,992	630
2003-04	18	—	415	25	8,322	742
2004-05	24	—	434	18	7,632	753
2005-06	15	—	416	21	7,625	832
2006-07	26	—	397	15	7,219	755
2007-08	14	1	374	18	7,533	710
2008-09	20	1	376	16	6,860	569
2009-10	22	1	274	17	5,712	527
2010-11[2]	9	—	243	12	4,784	544

[1] Statistics for the years 1997-98 to 2000-01 are identified by Standard Industrial Classification 1992 (SIC92) Section F—Construction. For the years 2001-02 and on, statistics are presented on the new basis of 'SIC 2007' Section F—Construction. Changes to industrial classifications occur periodically, to reflect how the industrial composition of the economy changes over time.

[2] Provisional.

[3] Identified by local authority code 4520 'South Tyneside'.

[4] For the years 1997-98 to 2000-01, identified by the HSE geographical area for the North East. From 2001-02 onwards, identified by Government Office Region for the North East., Both include South Tyneside LA.

[5] Includes North East Government Office Region.

Crisis Loans

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average social fund crisis loan was in the last year for which figures are available. [80353]

Steve Webb: Average award figures for all social fund payments are published in annex one to the Annual Report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the social fund. The average social fund crisis loan in 2010-11 was £83.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means social fund crisis loans are paid to individuals who do not hold a bank or post office account. [80357]

Steve Webb: Crisis loans are normally paid by cheque to applicants who do not have a bank or post office account. In exceptional circumstances cash payments may be made.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times his Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78057]

Chris Grayling: Regrettably, it is not possible to answer this PQ at a reasonable cost. This is because information is not recorded in this form and in order to establish the answer, it would be necessary to gather together every file over the 3½ year period (the bulk of which would have to be retrieved from store, as non-current files are not retained within offices of the reasons of lack of space) and then have a lawyer go through them to identify each and every occasion on which such advice was sought. Equally, such an exercise would be necessary in relation to each and every court case. In addition, it is possible that such an exercise would not identify every case of oral or telephonic advice. For these reasons the probable cost of answering this parliamentary question would be well in excess of £800.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of his Department's headcount in each of the next three years. [79167]

Chris Grayling: Departmental headcount has been reduced by around 7,000 full-time equivalents since the beginning of the spending review in April 2011. It is estimated that headcount will continue to reduce for the remainder of this year and next year as streamlining and efficiencies are realised.

Headcount levels in the following two years, 2013-14 and 2014-15, will be significantly impacted by the planned introduction of universal credit and migration of claimants from legacy benefits. Work force plans for these years are still being developed and at this stage it is not feasible to provide an estimate of the headcount levels.

Marketing

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on marketing in each month since June 2010. [79162]

Chris Grayling: We do not have a monthly breakdown of marketing spend across the Department.

The following figures are campaign costs across the Department for each financial year.

	£ million
2011-12 (1st quarter)	0.42
2010-11	[1]3.59
2009-10	27.22

[1] 87% reduction on 2009-10. A proportion of this expenditure would have been spent prior to May 2010. The balance was split on essential leaflet provision for Jobcentre Plus and the Pension and Disability Carers Service and on pension's policy and reform. As per the Cabinet Office spending controls exemption process, both of these sets of expenditure were appropriately approved.

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78131]

Chris Grayling: In the 2010 Emergency Budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced that a two-year pay freeze would be implemented for civil service staff outside the senior civil service (SCS). Base pay for the SCS was also frozen in 2010-11.

The pay freeze for non-SCS applies for two years. In DWP the pay freeze applied to the pay years 2010-11 and 2011-12. Public sector pay guidance is clear that staff on full time equivalent earnings of £21,000 a year or under are guaranteed an increase of at least £250.

The guidance also allowed for increases where there was a contractual entitlement to progression. DWP does not have contractual progression.

In DWP payments were therefore limited to those earning £21,000 or under, plus a number of individuals who earned slightly more than £21,000 to ensure that they were not 'leapfrogged' by colleagues lower down the pay scale. In addition, during the 2010-11 year, pay rises were approved by Cabinet Office for four senior civil servants who each took on substantially bigger roles with increased responsibility. There have been no pay rises for any senior civil servants in the 2011-12 year.

In both 2010-11 and 2011-12 DWP provided increases to eligible staff above the £250 guaranteed minimum. This is because DWP is a lower paying Department. Around 57% of staff received a pay rise in 2010-11 and around half of staff received an increase in 2011-12.

The following table summarises pay increase data in DWP for the years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

	Average increase (£)	*Average increase (percentage)*	*Number receiving base pay increase*
2010-11	471.74	2.7	64,563
2011-12	462.30	2.6	52,388

Benefits Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the future level of benefit expenditure. [79168]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Annually managed expenditure—Great Britain

£ million

	Cash terms	*Real terms 2011-12 prices*
2011-12	157,026	157,026
2012-13	162,183	158,228
2013-14	163,359	155,186
2014-15	167,449	154,890
2015-16	173,103	155,909

Notes:

1. The forecast expenditure figures shown here are consistent with the March 2011 Budget forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility.
2. Figures do not include Northern Ireland, except for Over 75 TV Licences which relate to the United Kingdom. Figures include payments overseas.
3. Child Benefit expenditure is the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs; War Pensions expenditure is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence. Expenditure on these benefits is not included.
4. Figures do not include administration costs.

Further benefit expenditure and caseload information can be found on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Translation Services

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* documents, *(b)* leaflets and *(c)* other written materials for which his Department and its associated public bodies are responsible are published or provided in languages other than English; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of translating materials in each category in the latest period for which figures are available. [78298]

Chris Grayling: The following table sets out the information requested.

Material published by Department for Work and Pensions and associated public bodies[1], Translation costs 2011-12[2]

	Material	*£*
Documents	ESAN50[3,4]	5,305
Leaflets	ESAN54[5,4]	5,428
	EL2[6,7]	1,245
Other written materials	Correspondence[8]	9,435
	Welsh language translations[9]	15,791
	Independent Living Fund[10]	[11]10,000

[1] The Independent Living Fund is the only associated body who reported any translation spend.

[2] From 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011.

[3] ESAN50 is a questionnaire sent to doctors in Europe to support claims for ESA made by EU citizens who have qualified while working in the UK and who then return to their home country.

[4] Translated into 13 European languages.

[5] ESAN54 is a leaflet giving doctors guidance on completing the ESAN50.

[6] EL2 is a pensions information leaflet, which is available only on the internet.

[7] Translated into seven ethnic minority languages.

[8] Correspondence is made up of letters to UK resident customers who have requested that they be communicated with in a foreign language and letters sent overseas to request information to support benefit claims by UK citizens living abroad (mainly pensioners).

[9] Welsh language translations are a mixture of forms and information leaflets; a detailed breakdown is not immediately available. The majority of translations into Welsh are carried out by in-house teams.

[10] There is no breakdown of actual spend data for Independent Living Fund. This figure is an estimate based on budget.

[11] Estimate.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78365]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions does not routinely offer unpaid or expenses-only internships. There are none recorded in the last 12 months in the Department. Within the non-departmental public bodies, there are two bodies that currently have a combined total of 13 unpaid internships.

The Department is leading the initiative to offer young people the opportunity to participate in working life by giving them an opportunity to gain work experience. I have given a commitment to host 3,000 work experience placements by the end of March 2013.

The first people commenced their work experience in DWP on 11 July. As of 1 November there were 149 placements on unpaid work experience, where no expenses or allowances apply.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79550]

Chris Grayling: Since May 2010 the Department has answered a total of 1,202 parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day, of which 1,161 (96.6%) were answered on time. The detailed information requested is in the following table:

	Named day PQs answered	*(a) Number answered on time*	*(b) Number answered 5 to 9 days late*	*(c) Number answered 10 to 19 days late*	*(d) Number answered 20 to 30 days late*	*(e) Number answered more than 30 days late*
2010						
June	71	66	0	0	0	0
July	88	87	0	0	0	0
September	34	33	1	0	0	0
October	56	55	0	0	0	0
November	126	122	1	0	0	0
December	75	72	2	0	0	0
2011						
January	97	92	2	0	0	0
February	105	103	0	0	1	0
March	109	104	0	0	0	0
April	43	42	0	0	1	0
May	68	64	2	0	0	0
June	117	111	0	3	1	0
July	73	73	0	0	0	0
September	43	41	0	0	0	0
October	97	96	0	0	0	0

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79552]

Chris Grayling: On occasion special advisers look at draft answers before the relevant Minister has seen them. They do not 'clear' draft answers but they provide political advice to departmental officials on behalf of the Minister.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of redundancies arising from the cancellation of Flexible New Deal contracts on the capacity of the welfare-to-work industry. [78842]

Chris Grayling: There is no evidence that the capacity of the welfare-to-work industry was adversely impacted by the cancellation of Flexible New Deal contracts, as demonstrated by the successful introduction, on time, of the Work programme and the industry's continuing willingness and capacity to take on further measures such as mandatory work activity and support for families.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of accrued liabilities for Work programme contracts in each month since the Work programme began. [78237]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme is the Department's largest payment by results programme. Over the life of the contract, the cost is estimated to be £3 billion to £5 billion, funded largely out of the benefit savings it delivers and generating value for money for the taxpayer. Costs are incurred as customers are attached to the programme and subsequently move into work. It is not possible to estimate with any accuracy the size and timing of the future payment liabilities that are built up on a monthly basis.

Funeral Payments

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average funeral payment was in the last year for which figures are available. [80359]

Steve Webb: Average award figures for all social fund payments are published in annex one to the Annual Report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund. The average funeral payment award for 2010-11 was £1,217.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents on income support there were in *(a)* Great Britain, *(b)* England, *(c)* the west midlands and *(d)* Dudley borough in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2010. [78304]

Chris Grayling: The figures requested are in the following table.

	May		
	1997	*2005*	*2010*
Great Britain	1,018,400	789,320	679,150
England	867,800	680,880	589,960
West midlands	92,300	75,580	68,340
Dudley borough	4,600	3,830	3,660

2005 and 2010 figures come from a 100% source and have been rounded to the nearest 10.

1997 figures come from a 5% sample and have been rounded to the nearest 100 due to their lower level of accuracy.

Lone parent obligations were introduced from 24 November 2008 and by May 2010 the policy was being rolled out to lone parents whose youngest child was aged 10 or 11. This policy led to fewer lone parents claiming income support, and more lone parents seeking work and able to access sustainable employment

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many businesses in the construction industry have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* fined for breaches of health and safety regulations in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [79633]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows the number of separate prosecutions taken by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE[1]) against employers or individuals in the construction industry. These cases may include a number of separate charges. If an employer or individual was prosecuted on more than one occasion, these will be counted separately in the table.

Numbers for the Jarrow constituency cannot be separately identified. In the period shown, there were no prosecution cases in South Tyneside. The figures for the North East are for the Government office region. HSE's jurisdiction does not extend to Northern Ireland, so the national total shown is for Great Britain.

[1] The Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998 allocate enforcement of health and safety legislation in the construction industry to HSE.

Prosecution cases[1] taken by HSE[2] against employers or individuals in construction[3] 1997-98 to 2010-11[4]

Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11[5]*
North-east total	9	14	9	9	11	7	16	13	11	17	11	5	7	9
Of which:														
Resulted in fine	9	12	8	8	11	7	16	11	10	15	10	5	6	9
GB total	377	374	373	366	306	297	277	263	206	225	202	214	185	214
Of which:														
Resulted in fine	335	337	322	329	274	274	246	238	182	192	182	175	155	183

[1] Figures quoted for each year represent the numbers of cases decided in that year, not the number of cases initiated.

[2] In Scotland HSE and local authorities investigate potential offences but cannot institute legal proceedings. HSE and local authorities send a report to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). COPFS makes the final decision whether to institute legal proceedings and which offences are taken. For more information, see
www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm#enforcement

[3] Industry classifications are based on SIC 2007 coding.

[4] Provisional.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many site visits have been carried out by Health and Safety Executive inspectors in the construction industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [79634]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available in the form requested without disproportionate cost.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many inspectors were employed by the Health and Safety Executive in each year since 1997. [79635]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

As at 1 April each year	*Number of inspectors*[1]
1997	1,442
1998	1,437
1999	1,497
2000	1,508
2001	1,534
2002	1,625
2003	1,651
2004	1,605
2005	1,530
2006	[2]1,444
2007	1,440
2008	1,366
2009	1,469
2010	[3]1,495
2011	[3]1,450

[1] All figures are for substantive full time equivalents (FTEs), rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] The number and that for the subsequent years excludes 99 FTE inspectors that moved from the Health and Safety Executive to the Office of Rail Regulation when responsibility for rail regulation health and safety matters transferred on 1 April 2006.

[3] The figures exclude temporary Inspectors of Construction on two-year fixed term contracts: 22 FTEs at 1 April 2010; 14 FTEs at 1 April 2011.

Industrial Health and Safety: Fines

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average fine was imposed on employers for breaches of health and safety regulations in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* the UK in each year since 2007-08. [79513]

Chris Grayling: The data requested are contained in the following table. They include fines for breaches of health and safety regulations and of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The table acknowledges that each prosecution may involve breaches of more than one regulation/statute.

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
HSE				
Average fine per prosecution on conviction in the north east	[2]20,953	9,628	10,502	6,691
Average fine per prosecution on conviction in Great Britain	20,405	22,935	23,903	[3]35,938
Local authorities				
Average fine per prosecution on conviction in the north east	7,875	3,500	7,667	10,000
Average fine per prosecution on conviction in Great Britain	16,839	12,223	18,052	17,612

[1] Indicates provisional data.

[2] Six cases heard in this year resulted in fines between £60,000 and £120,000.

[3] Heavily influenced by the fine of £5,350,000 resulting from the major incident at Buncefield.

Notes:

1. Allocation of data to a geographical area is based on the location of the court where the offence was prosecuted. In some cases, this may be different to the location of the incident which led to prosecution.
2. Offences relating to breaches of health and safety regulations committed before 16 January 2009 were subject to maximum fines of £5,000. For the same offences committed after that date, magistrates courts may impose a fine of up to £20,000.

Innovation Fund: Young People

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his contribution of 24 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 3, how many young people have been placed in employment through his Department's £30 million Innovation Fund. [79177]

Chris Grayling: The Innovation Fund was announced on 12 May 2011 and will support disadvantaged young people and those at risk of disadvantage, aged 14 years and over. This programme is currently in the commissioning stages and will begin delivery in early 2012.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the Jobcentre Plus risk register. [79150]

Chris Grayling: DWP has recently undergone a restructure, under which Jobcentre Plus formally closed as an Agency from 3 October 2011. The Jobcentre Plus risk register was also formally closed on that date.

The Jobcentre Plus Annual Report and Accounts for period ending 31 March 2011, which include a Statement on Internal Control, were placed in the Library. They are also available on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/jcp-annual-report-and-accounts-2010-2011.pdf

Where appropriate, risks from the Jobcentre Plus Register continue to be managed, along with other DWP risks, at the appropriate level within DWP.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff are employed in a Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus office in (i) Great Britain, (ii) England and (iii) the west midlands. [78301]

Chris Grayling: The following tables sets out the information on how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff work in a Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus in (i) Great Britain; (ii) England; and (iii) the west midlands as of August 2011 and August 2010.

August 2011

	Jobcentre Plus		*Jobcentres*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Great Britain	47,708	29,174	23,595	14,809
England	39,074	24,366	20,003	12,607
West midlands	4,401	3,025	2,298	1,757

August 2010

	Jobcentre Plus		*Jobcentres*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Great Britain	58,138	29,274	29,883	14,463
England	47,913	24,510	25,434	12,343
West midlands	5,773	3,052	3,157	1,678

Notes:

1. The information is set out on a staff in post basis, i.e. employees are counted as a single unit irrespective of the hours they work.
2. The August 2011 data represent the latest date for which published information is available. The August 2010 data are included for comparison purposes.
3. Much of the difference in the staffing figures being reported between August 2010 and August 2011 is accounted for by people employed on fixed-term appointments having left Jobcentre Plus on or before their contract end dates.
4. Jobcentre Plus—covers the whole of the agency previously known as Jobcentre Plus before being absorbed into the new DWP structure. The staff numbers quoted in the response for Jobcentre Plus comprise the three operational arms of Jobcentres, Benefit Centres and Contact Centres and also the corporate and support functions (Finance, Change and Products, Strategy Planning Employers and Stakeholders, Operational Support).
5. Jobcentres—covers purely the network of local customer facing offices located in towns and cities across the country and is one of the three operational arms within Jobcentre Plus. The numbers quoted in the response for Jobcentres cover staff located in Jobcentres that undertake and directly support the front line operational work of delivering labour market interventions.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many special advisers are employed in his Department; [79159]

(2) if he will list the salaries of special advisers in his Department. [79160]

Chris Grayling: The Government publish, on a regular basis, information about the numbers and costs of special advisers. A list was published on 19 July 2011. See:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

New Deal Schemes: Contracts

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's estimate is of the *(a)* contract closure costs for the Flexible New Deal and *(b)* costs associated with procurement of Work programme contracts. [79152]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) It is not possible to provide an estimate of the cost of closing Flexible New Deal contracts while the Department is still engaged in confidential commercial discussions with providers.

(b) The costs associated with the procurement of Work Programme contracts were £3.57 million, these costs cover a central procurement team and associated services required to complete the procurement.

Pensions

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to take steps to mitigate the effects of quantitative easing (QE) on *(a)* pension funds due for statutory triennial valuation during the current phase of QE and *(b)* other pension funds. [79637]

Steve Webb: The Pensions Act 2004 introduced a scheme-specific approach to regulating pension scheme funding. The Pensions Regulator, which is operationally independent of Ministers, has made it clear that funding objectives must be set prudently, to uphold stability during various economic climates. The scheme funding regime is sufficiently flexible, in terms of both the form and duration of recovery plans, to support pension schemes in meeting long-term liabilities through fluctuations in the economic cycle. It allows trustees the flexibility to develop prudent funding strategies which take account of the particular circumstances of their particular scheme.

Pension scheme funding strategies are designed to deliver members' benefits over the long-term, during which time there will inevitably be fluctuations in the economic cycle. I understand that the Regulator will continue to apply the system pragmatically looking for outcomes in the best interests of the scheme and sponsor. This will be the case whether schemes are due their triennial valuation during the phase of quantitative easing or at a later date.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit sanctions were *(a)* issued and *(b)* enforced in each month since June 2010. [79157]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of benefit sanctions *(a)* issued and *(b)* enforced in each month since June 2010 for jobseeker's allowance (JSA), employment and support allowance (ESA), and income support (IS) is provided in the following tables.

The number of benefit sanctions issued has been interpreted to mean the total number of cases that have been referred to a decision maker for a sanction decision. Information relating to the number of such cases is only available for jobseeker's allowance.

The number of sanctions imposed has been interpreted to mean the number of those cases where an adverse decision has been given. This information is available for JSA, IS and ESA.

Jobseeker's allowance (JSA)

The following table shows this number of referrals made and the number of sanctions imposed by month since June 2010 as requested:

Year/Month	*Number of referrals*	*Number of sanctions*
2010		
June	120,090	57,350
July	131,840	62,630
August	139,300	65,940
September	143,730	69,360
October	144,960	70,230
November	148,310	73,530

Year/Month	*Number of referrals*	*Number of sanctions*
December	115,520	54,780
2011		
January	127,340	63,510
February	141,100	70,310
March	161,290	81,610
April	114,470	60,620

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database

Employment and support allowance (ESA)

Between 1 June 2010 and 31 May 2011, there were 11,530 sanctions imposed on ESA claimants in the Work-Related Activity Group (WRAG). The following table shows this number of ESA WRAG sanctions by the month the sanction was imposed:

Year/Month sanction was imposed	*Number of sanctions*
2010	
June	1,440
July	1,150
August	920
September	830
October	960
November	930
December	820
2011	
January	960
February	960
March	1,250
April	610
May	710
Total	11,530

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP ESA WRAG sanctions database

Income support (IS)

Between 1 June 2010 and 31 March 2011, there were 62,860 sanctions imposed on lone parents claiming IS. The following table shows this number of IS lone parent sanctions by the month the sanction was imposed:

Year/Month of sanction	*Number of sanctions imposed*
2010	
June	7,390
July	6,860
August	6,940
September	6,080
October	6,550
November	5,890
December	4,940
2011	
January	6,730
February	5,540
March	5,960
Total	62,860

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Income Support Lone Parent Regime database

Social Security Benefits: Publicity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1091W, on social security benefits, how much funding was spent on take-up campaigns for each benefit in each of the last five years; and how much he plans to spend on campaigns for each benefit in the next three years. [78253]

Chris Grayling: The following figures are for actual spend and refer to media spend, design, PR, production and any other associated costs (e.g. outbound telephony for specific campaigns) and are exclusive of VAT.

We are not able to provide figures for spend on campaigns for each benefit in the next three years as no data are available as yet on future spend.

Pension credit

	Cost (£ million)
2006-07	2.4
2007-08	1.5
2008-09	0.87
2009-10	1.19
Total	5.96

Winter fuel payments

	Cost (£ million)
2006-07	0.47
2007-08	0.32
2008-09	0.28
2009-10	0.23
Total	1.3

Unemployment: Dudley

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions his Department has had with its partner agencies on the rate of *(a)* long-term, *(b)* youth and *(c)* overall unemployment in Dudley borough; and what steps he is taking to reduce the rates. [78296]

Chris Grayling: The rate of unemployment, including youth and long-term unemployment, is still far too high and the Government are taking significant steps to reduce it. In particular we are supporting young people into work by investing in flexible, personalised employment support, apprenticeships, work experience and training. I am undertaking discussions with a wide range of agencies, work programme providers and partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors at both local and national level to help ensure that young people are able to take advantage of these opportunities.

Jobcentre Plus in Dudley has been working closely with colleges and providers to support the Dudley borough in a variety of areas such as jobs, training, apprenticeships and work experience.

The Jobcentre Plus employment manager for Dudley borough has developed close working relationships with both Dudley and Stourbridge colleges as well as a local provider—Mercury Training—using local labour market information to establish the employer/customer supply and demand data to then identify suitable provision.

Specific examples of Jobcentre Plus current and planned activity across the Dudley borough are as follows:

Developed a Hospitality Academy with Stourbridge college which has resulted in positive job outcomes with the Copthorne Hotel through pre-employment training and work experience.

Working with Mercury Training to identify security training provision and employment opportunities for claimants within the Dudley borough.

An event is planned for jobseekers seeking employment in the care sector on the 29 November 2011. This event has been developed through local partnership work with colleges across the Black Country through the Care to Make a Difference programme.

A joint retail jobs event was recently held at the Merry Hill Centre through work between the Jobcentre, Westfield Retail Academy, local colleges and providers in supporting customers in recruitment processes for seasonal vacancies, in particular supporting jobseekers with the online application process.

Stourbridge College has been successful in a recent Flexible Support Funding bid to deliver HGV training to 100 customers within the Dudley borough.

The Jobcentre has recently held an event in the borough specifically for customers aged over 50 to maximise on recruitment and training opportunities.

Jobcentre Plus also is represented locally at:

Dudley Employment and Skills Group which looks at how to improve the local economy and tackle unemployment. All three work programme providers also send a representative to the group.

Dudley Means Business Group where we provide regular updates on what is being done to combat unemployment in the borough.

A number of other Dudley borough partnerships working groups such as Neighbourhood Employment and Skills groups and the NEETS Steering Group.

Universal Credit

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the inclusion of passported benefits in universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [79169]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit provides a new single system of means-tested support for working-age people who are in or out of work. As a result, some existing means-tested benefits will no longer be needed. The Government recognise the importance of passported benefits such as free school meals and free prescriptions to claimants and to their decisions about moving into work. The Government aim to ensure that passported benefits are targeted to people that require them most.

Defining entitlement to certain passported benefits is the responsibility of other Government Departments and devolved Administrations. Policies and provision vary by country and the value of benefits can also vary by country or local authority.

The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) has been commissioned to carry out an independent review on passported benefits on behalf of the Government. This review is still taking place and the Committee has been asked to report by the end of January 2012. The Department will publish the final report alongside our response in April.

UNUM Ltd

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department has had with representatives of UNUM Ltd since May 2010. [78256]

Chris Grayling: In January 2011 representatives from Unum approached both the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), and the Minister for Welfare Reform, my noble Friend Lord Freud, to discuss a research paper. Neither Minister met with Unum representatives, but did forward the details of departmental officials involved in the independent review of sickness absence in Great Britain. Following this, on 14 February 2011 representatives of UNUM met with these officials.

In addition, on 18 October 2010 a UNUM representative—as part of a delegation from UK Rehabilitation Council—met with the Minister for Welfare Reform and Department for Work and Pensions officials. A full list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ministers-meetings-overseas.shtml

An extensive search of records has not found any further discussions between the Department's officials and representatives of Unum. However, it should be noted that there are approximately 100,000 officials within the Department and it would not be possible, except at disproportionate cost, to ask each of them whether they have engaged in any such discussions.

Work Capability Assessment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 109W, on work capability assessment, what assessment his Department has made of the employability of people with a terminal illness who have a prognosis of over six months. [78101]

Chris Grayling: The Department has not made any assessment of the employability of people who have a terminal illness and a prognosis of over six months. However, if a claimant is not awarded ESA on the grounds of terminal illness they may still be placed in the support group for other reasons such as the treatment they are receiving or as a result of their disabling symptoms. In addition, if they do not meet any of the support group criteria they may still be placed in the work related activity group depending on the impact of their condition. All cases are reviewed after an appropriate period and would be placed in the support group if their condition has deteriorated to a point where they fulfil the criteria.

Work Programme

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which voluntary and third sector organisations expressed an interest in signing Work programme contracts; and if he will make a statement. [79368]

Chris Grayling: The DWP received Prime Contractor bids from 30 organisations, five of which were from the voluntary/third sector. Work programme contracts were awarded to two organisations from the voluntary/third sector (Careers Development Group and Rehab).

The DWP has published the Work programme contracts on the Contracts Finder website.

Contract details can be accessed through the following website:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/?site=1000&lang-en

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many voluntary and third sector organisations are in the supply chain of Work programme provider Maximus; how many referrals from Maximus such organisations have received *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the total number of referrals to its supply chain; and if he will make a statement; [79957]

(2) how many voluntary and third sector organisations are in the supply chain of Work programme provider *(a)* Avanta and *(b)* G4S; how many referrals from those providers such organisations have received (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of the total number of referrals to their supply chain; and if he will make a statement; [79958]

(3) how many voluntary and third sector organisations are in the supply chain of Work programme provider Ingeus; how many referrals from Ingeus such organisations have received *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the total number of referrals to its supply chain; and if he will make a statement; [79959]

(4) how many voluntary and third sector organisations are in the supply chain of Work programme provider Seetec; how many referrals from Seetec such organisations have received *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the total number of referrals to its supply chain; and if he will make a statement; [79960]

(5) how many voluntary and third sector organisations are in the supply chain of Work programme provider A4E; how many referrals from A4E such organisations have received *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the total number of referrals to its supply chain; and if he will make a statement. [79961]

Chris Grayling: A total of 699 supply chain places are occupied by voluntary and community sector organisations. This represents a total of 423 different voluntary and community sector organisations in tiers 1 and 2. DWP does not hold an exact numbers of voluntary and community sector subcontractors broken down by prime provider across the full supply chain as figures are liable to change.

The Department intends to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012. This is in line with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure published statistics meet the required high quality standards.

CABINET OFFICE

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80064]

Mr Maude: Details of Cabinet Office Ministers' and Permanent Secretaries' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

and

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-permanent-secretaries%E2%80%99-meetings-external-organisations

Further detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Civil Contingencies Secretariat: Finance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the budget was for the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79598]

Mr Maude: The budget for the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) for each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12 was/is:

	£
2008-09	9,641,750
2009-10	9,646,750
2010-11	9,615,758
2011-12	10,514,000

This includes budgetary provision for resilient telecommunications programmes.

In the time available it has only been possible to produce information for 2008-09 onwards. I will write to the hon. Member when the additional information for the earlier years is available.

The Cabinet Office has not yet finalised unit budgets for future financial years.

Civil Servants: Secondment

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many UK nationals on secondment from each Government Department were working in an EU *(a)* institution and *(b)* agency (i) in each of the last 20 years and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [78604]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 7 November 2011]*: I have been asked to reply.

On 1 November 2011, the British Government had 88 officials seconded to the EU institutions and seven seconded to EU agencies.

These figures do not include secondments to the European External Action Service.

	Institutions	*Agency*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	5	—
Joint International Unit	1	—
Treasury	6	—
Financial Services Authority	5	—
Intellectual Property Office	4	1
Department for International Development	23	—
Department for Transport	2	—
Revenue and Customs	3	—
Home Office	2	—
Food Standards Agency	2	—
Ministry of Justice	2	—
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	6	1
Treasury Solicitors	1	—
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	3	1
Ministry of Defence	2	—
Dept for Work and Pensions	4	—
Department of Environment of Northern Island	—	1
Maritime Fisheries Agency	1	—
Ofcom	1	—
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Northern Ireland	1	—
Civil Aviation Authority	2	—
Natural England	1	—
Office of Fair Trading	1	—
JNCC/DEFRA	1	—
Environment Agency	2	1
Marine Management Organisation	—	1
Welsh Assembly Government	3	—
Department of Health	1	—
Forestry Commission Scotland	1	—
Health and Safety Executive	—	1
Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland	2	—

We are unable to provide a breakdown of the number of secondments for each of the last 20 years without incurring disproportionate cost as the information is not held in the form requested.

Co-operatives

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Government plans to take to promote the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives in 2012. [79137]

Mr Maude: I appointed the Mutuals Taskforce, chaired by Julian Le Grand, earlier in the year, with representatives from organisations in the field, including Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Cooperatives UK.

The taskforce has recently confirmed it will take on the role of the UK national forum for the International Year of Co-operatives, with Cooperatives UK leading the taskforce's work in this area. Cabinet Office will work closely with the taskforce and with Cooperatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisation during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

Defence: Procurement

Paul Flynn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to lift the temporary exemption from publication for Ministry of Defence contracts associated with war like stores. [79611]

Mr Maude: There are no immediate plans to lift the temporary exemption from publication for Ministry of Defence contracts associated with war like stores.

However, Cabinet Office officials are exploring with the Ministry of Defence ways in which more contract information can be made transparent.

Departmental Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many external training courses staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* 10 Downing street and *(c)* the office of the Deputy Prime Minister attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74396]

Mr Maude: Both the Prime Minister's Office and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office are an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

298 Cabinet Office staff have attended external training courses in the 12 months prior to 1 October 2011. The total cost of the courses attended is estimated to be £1,184,636. To provide the cost of individual courses would exceed the cost threshold.

Domestic Horizon Scanning Committee

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what dates the Domestic Horizon Scanning Committee has met since May 2010; and who chaired each meeting. [79599]

Mr Maude: The Domestic Horizon Scanning Committee has met regularly every quarter since May 2010. Each meeting was chaired by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office.

Emergencies

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what date he expects the National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies 2011 to be published. [79602]

Mr Maude: I expect an updated National Risk Register to be published by the end of January 2012.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many full-time equivalent staff work on the *(a)* central response, *(b)* local response and *(c)* resilient telecommunications workstreams of the Capabilities Programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters; [79607]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff work on *(a)* evacuation and shelter, *(b)* warning and informing the public, *(c)* recovery and *(d)* community resilience workstreams of the Capabilities Programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters. [79609]

Mr Maude: Varying numbers of staff from a number of Government Departments, agencies and other organisations concerned with emergency response have worked on these workstreams over the years; information on the overall numbers that are or have been involved in each workstream is not held. But those in my Department currently involved as part of their duties are:

(a) Central response: two full-time equivalents (FTEs).

(b) Local response: three FTEs.

(c) Resilient telecoms: eight FTEs.

(d) Evacuation and shelter: one FTE.

(e) Warning and informing the public: one FTE.

(f) Community resilience and recovery: four FTEs.

Central coordination of the workstreams is carried out as part of their duties by a team currently numbering three FTEs.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the budget was for the *(a)* central response, *(b)* local response and *(c)* resilient telecommunications workstreams of the Capabilities programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period; [79608]

(2) what the budget was for the *(a)* evacuation and shelter, *(b)* warning and informing the public, *(c)* recovery and *(d)* community resilience workstreams of the Capabilities programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79610]

Mr Maude: Work on these workstreams within the Cabinet Office has been carried out within the administrative budget for work on national security. None of the workstreams has had a specific budgetary allocation with the exception of the resilient telecommunications programme, whose budget for the programme from 2007-08 to 2010-11 was:

	£
2007-08	2,869,000
2008-09	6,566,535
2009-10	4,362,125
2010-11	4,704,121

Initial provision of £5.5million was made for the resilient telecommunications programme for the current financial year. The Cabinet Office has not yet finalised provision for the programme for future financial years.

Resilience and Emergencies: Cabinet Committees

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how often the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development: Sub-committee on Protective Security and Resilience officials has met since May 2010; and what the membership is of the committee; [79495]

(2) on what dates the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development: Sub-committee on Protective Security and Resilience has met since May 2010; and what the membership is of the Committee; [79600]

(3) which special advisers have attended the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development: Sub-committee on Protective Security and Resilience since May 2010; and on what dates. [79601]

Mr Maude: The Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development: Sub-committee on Protective Security and Resilience, was disestablished in May 2010.

The current list of Cabinet Committees is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-committees-system-and-list-cabinet-committees

Resilience and Emergencies: Training

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* officials, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers have received Central Government Emergency Response Training since May 2010. [79497]

Mr Maude: 179 officials from Government Departments have attended Central Government Emergency Response Training since May 2010. The Cabinet Office provides additional briefings on an ad hoc basis as required. Ministers and special advisors receive tailored one-to-one briefing as appropriate in addition to briefing as part of their ministerial induction. The number of such sessions is not recorded centrally.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many of the officials in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat have not received Central Government Emergency Response Training. [79498]

Mr Maude: Over 90% of staff in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat have received Central Government Emergency Response Training. All new staff joining CCS undertake CGERT training as part of their induction process.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in Government Departments have received Central Government Emergency Response Training. [79499]

Mr Maude: To date, 968 officials from Government Departments have attended Central Government Emergency Response Training.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many permanent secretaries in each Government department have received Central Government Emergency Response Training. [79500]

Mr Maude: Permanent secretaries are briefed by the Cabinet Office on central Government emergency response arrangements, at their request or in the run up to participating in national exercises. The number of such sessions is not recorded centrally.

Freedom of Information

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress he is making on creating a right to data; and if he will make a statement. [79492]

Mr Maude: The Government are pursuing amendments to the Freedom of Information Act in the Protection of Freedoms Bill. The amendments will place a new requirement on public authorities to make datasets available for re-use, where reasonably practicable, in a re-usable format when releasing them in response to requests or through publication schemes. These changes to the Freedom of Information Act support the Government's commitment to deliver an enhanced right to data.

The Cabinet Office's consultation "Making Open Data Real" which closed last month, sought views on how the Government can further enhance the right to data to increase transparency for a wider range of bodies than those covered by the Freedom of Information Act and other legislation. Cabinet Office is analyzing the responses received over the coming weeks to inform the forthcoming White Paper due early next year.

The Freedom of Information Act will also be subject to post-legislative scrutiny to see how it is working in practice. Further policy in this area will be developed in light of the evidence drawn from both sets of work.

Contracts: JCB

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts the Government has awarded to *(a)* JCB and *(b)* associates of JCB since May 2010. [78336]

Mr Maude: Since January 2011, as part of the Government's programme to increase transparency, central Government Departments have been required to publish on Contracts Finder information on the contracts they award. The following table summarises contracts that are listed on Contracts Finder. Further information is held by individual Departments.

Supplier	*Procuring authority*	*Contract*
BC Plant JCB	Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland	Mechanical shovels, excavators and shovel loaders, and mining machinery
Scot JCB Ltd	Tayside Procurement Consortium	Grounds-maintenance equipment
JCB Finance Ltd	Bridgend county borough council	Financial leasing services
Greenshields JCB Ltd	Braintree district council	Grounds-maintenance equipment
Scot JCB Ltd	West Lothian council	Lawn mowers
Scot JCB Ltd	East Ayrshire council	Motor vehicles

Procurement

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to take steps to support small and medium-sized enterprises competing against larger corporations for Government contracts. [74728]

Mr Maude: The Government recognise the vital role that small firms have to play in helping it to achieve the best possible value for money when it buys goods and services, and is taking forward a series of measures to make it easier for SMEs to compete on a level playing field for Government contracts.

These measures include making greater use of the "open" procedure to avoid excluding suppliers unnecessarily; seeking to removing pre-qualification questionnaires from contracts below the £100,000 threshold for goods and services; greater transparency, for example through 'Contracts Finder' to make opportunities easier to find (which is obviously beneficial to smaller local businesses that may have fewer resources to devote to looking for opportunities); simplifying the public procurement process; making more use of outcome-based specifications; breaking procurements into smaller lots; greater use of pre-market engagement; and encouraging different contracting models, such as consortia.

Further information can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/government-opens-contracts-small-business

Major Projects Authority

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions the Major Projects Authority has met; and if he will make a statement. [79488]

Mr Maude: I announced the creation of the Major Projects Authority (MPA) in February 2011, in order to significantly improve the success rate of major projects across central Government.

The MPA is a central authority staffed by Cabinet Office officials working in partnership with HM Treasury with a clear, enforceable mandate from the Prime Minister for the oversight and direction of major projects funded and delivered by central Government. It has been operational since 1 April 2011.

Further details are available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/major-projects-authority

The MPA Board, chaired by the Chief Operating Officer of the Efficiency and Reform Group, meets every two months to consider key issues of policy and operational practice.

Public Sector Transparency Board

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions the Public Sector Transparency Board has met; on what dates; and if he will make a statement. [79489]

Mr Maude: The Public Sector Transparency Board has met on 11 occasions, on the following dates:

24 June 2010
15 September 2010
19 November 2010
11 January 2011
8 February 2011
2 March 2011
19 May 2011
8 June 2011
19 July 2011
6 September 2011
11 October 2011.

Public Sector: Pensions

Katy Clark: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will ensure that a gender equality impact assessment is carried out for the reform proposals being made in relation to each public sector pension scheme. [79325]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

As agreed with the trade unions, the Government will ensure that there is a full equality impact assessment before changes to public service pensions are implemented.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arts: Higher Education

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for art and design undergraduate courses were made in each of the last five years; what proportion of all applications this represented in each such year; and whether he has made an estimate of the number of applications for such courses in the 2012-13 academic year. [79314]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer I gave on 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 758-62W.

Business: Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1343W, on business: entry clearances, which business sectors have made representations on the immigration cap. [79709]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has ongoing contact with business representatives from across all sectors on a range of issues including migration.

In addition, the Migration Advisory Committee has recently put out a call for evidence on the review of the Tier 2 limit and associated policies. Representations on the immigration cap have been received from the following sectors: IT, manufacturing, multi-sector global.

Business: Regulation

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which external consultants are providing services to his Department in connection with the Red Tape Challenge; and what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* cost is of the services provided by each consultant. [79743]

Mr Prisk: No external consultants are providing services to the Department in connection to the Red Tape Challenge.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals have made the largest number of submissions to the Red Tape Challenge to date. [79799]

Mr Prisk: We are unable to provide data on submissions to the Red Tape Challenge as our website privacy policy clearly states that all personal information submitted to our public comment pages, and our private inbox, will not be disclosed except under the conditions listed. The total number of comments on the Red Tape Challenge website as at 8 November 2011 was 25,967.

Conditions of Employment

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector organisations he has met to discuss his Department's review of (i) employment law and (ii) workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements since May 2010. [79744]

Mr Davey: This Department is leading the cross-Government employment law review. All Departments involved in the review are engaging with relevant stakeholders on their specific areas of policy. This includes individual businesses as well as representative bodies.

The first stage of the workplace rights compliance and enforcement review was carried out internally and considered the existing evidence on the overall effectiveness of the enforcement architecture. As I outlined in my ministerial statement of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 29-30WS, this first stage found significant fragmentation within the enforcement landscape as a whole, largely as a consequence of the underpinning regulations, which need to be considered as part of the Red Tape Challenge on employment law.

Therefore, both reviews are closely linked with the Red Tape Challenge process, where Government have sought input from the widest possible range of stakeholders through their website, and a number of specific discussion workshops and focus groups on particular areas of policy.

It is not Government policy to give details of individual meetings undertaken as part of the policy development process.

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 791W, on conditions of employment, what representations he has received relating to the Government's review of arrangements for workplace rights compliance and enforcement; [79806]

(2) what progress he has made on the review of Government workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements; [79840]

(3) when he expects to publish a statement of findings from the review of Government workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements; [79841]

(4) whether he plans to issue a consultation on the findings from the review of Government workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements; [79842]

(5) which organisations Ministers and officials in his Department have met as part of the review of Government workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements. [79843]

Mr Davey: Initial findings of the Workplace Rights Compliance and Enforcement Review were outlined in my ministerial statement of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 29WS. The first stage of the review was carried out internally and considered the existing evidence on the overall effectiveness of the enforcement architecture. It found significant fragmentation within the enforcement landscape as a whole, largely as a consequence of the underpinning regulations. Therefore, it has been essential for us to first consider the regulations as part of the Red Tape Challenge Spotlight on Employment Law before beginning to develop proposals further.

The Spotlight on Employment Law launched on 3 October 2012 and has involved systematic consultation of businesses, unions and civil society. These groups were also invited to respond to a discussion paper on employment law strategy which accompanied the challenge and included discussion points on the enforcement arrangements. We received a number of considered responses from businesses, unions and some members of the public to this paper.

Following the outcomes of the Red Tape Challenge, we plan to make further announcements of the Workplace Rights Compliance and Enforcement Review in spring 2012. There will be a full consultation on any recommendations that emerge from the review.

It is not Government policy to give details of individual meetings undertaken as part of the policy development process.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67223]

Mr Davey: Information on the Department's procurement spend level with small businesses since May 2010 will be available in December, and I will write to my hon. Friend with the information and place a copy of my letter and the data in the Libraries of the House.

Information on the number of procurement contracts awarded could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Directors: Disqualification

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 758W, on directors' disqualification, what monetary benefit to the economy the Insolvency Service has estimated accrues for each disqualified director. [79956]

Mr Davey: For every company director that the Insolvency Service disqualifies, there is an estimated net benefit to the market of £88,000 (in terms of potential economic damage that they would otherwise cause). For 2009/10 the total potential savings to creditors from disqualifying unfit directors is estimated at £143.2 million.

Employment: Waste Management

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the potential *(a)* turnover, *(b)* level of employment and *(c)* level of exports attributable to the waste services sector in each year to 2020. [80025]

Mr Prisk: HM Government have made no estimates regarding projected turnover, employment or exports in the waste services sector.

However, independent research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills estimated the turnover, exports, number of jobs and forecast growth of the waste management sub-sector and the recovery and recycling sub-sector. The waste management sub-sector includes activities such as construction and operation of waste treatment facilities and the recovery and recycling sub-sector includes activities such as waste collection. Estimates include activity across the supply chain. The most recent data report on the 2009-10 financial year. The following tables provide 2009-10 turnover, employment and export estimates and growth forecasts.

Sales

			£ million
Sub-sector	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Waste management	4,824	4,945	5,071
Recovery and recycling	6,519	6,724	6,936

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Employment

Sub-sector	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Waste management	43,533	43,834	43,571
Recovery and recycling	54,598	54,440	54,629

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Exports

Sub-sector	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*£ million* *2009/10*
Waste management	450	473	510
Recovery and recycling	533	538	558

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Growth estimates[1]

Sub-sector	*Waste management*	*Recovery and recycling*
Growth percentage		
2010/11	2.8	3.4
2011/12	2.8	3.6
2012/13	3	3.8
2013/14	3	4
2014/15	3.2	4.2
2015/16	3.3	4.3

[1] The growth forecasts provided are based on aggregated forecasts for turnover.
Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of potential trends in employment in the environmental goods and services sector in each year to 2020; and if he will make a statement. [80013]

Mr Prisk: HM Government have made no forecasts of the potential trends in employment in the environmental goods and services sector.

However, independent research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills estimated the number of jobs and forecast growth in the low-carbon environmental goods and services sector, including jobs across the supply chain. Included within this sector is the environmental sub-sector. The most recent data report on the 2009/10 financial year. The following tables show employment and growth forecasts in the low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector as a whole and also in the environmental sub-sector between 2007/08 and 2009/10.

Total employment

UK LCEGS	*Number*
2007/08	908,107
2008/09	909,782
2009/10	914,273

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Growth forecasts

UK LCEGS	*Percentage*[1]
2010/11	4.8
2011/12	5
2012/13	5.1
2013/14	5.3
2014/15	5.4
2015/16	5.6

[1] The growth forecasts provided are based on aggregated forecasts for turnover.
Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Total employment

UK LCEGS sub-sector	*Number*
2007/08	197,290
2008/09	197,913
2009/10	197,967

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Growth forecasts

UK LCEGS sub-sector	*Percentage*[1]
2010/11	2.9
2011/12	3
2012/13	3.1
2013/14	3.2
2014/15	3.3
2015/16	3.4

[1] The growth forecasts provided are based on aggregated forecasts for turnover.
Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people are currently employed in the environmental goods and services sector; and if he will make a statement. [80014]

Mr Prisk: According to independent research published by K-Matrix and commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, employment in the low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector in 2009/10 was estimated at 914,273.

Broken down in to sub-sectors, employment in the environmental sub-sector is estimated at 197,967; employment in the low-carbon sub-sector is estimated at 449,091; employment in the renewable energy sub-sector is estimated at 267,215.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people are employed in the low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector. [80022]

Mr Prisk: According to independent research published by K-Matrix and commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, employment in the low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector in 2009/10 was estimated at 914,273. This estimate includes jobs across the supply chain.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings of the Green Economy Council he has attended since his appointment. [80005]

Mr Prisk: The Green Economy Council has met on two previous occasions. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), attended the meetings on 16 February and 7 June 2011 and will attend the next meeting on 16 November.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* turnover, *(b)* level of employment and *(c)* level of exports attributable to the contaminated land remediation sector in each year to 2020. [80020]

Mr Prisk: HM Government have made no estimates regarding projected turnover, employment or exports in the contaminated land remediation sector.

Independent research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills estimated the turnover, exports, number of jobs and forecast growth of the contaminated land reclamation and remediation sub-sector. Estimates include activity across the supply chain. The most recent data report on the 2009/10 financial year. The following tables provide 2009/10 turnover, employment and export estimates and growth forecasts.

Sales

£ million

	2007/08	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Contaminated land reclamation and remediation	914	938	963

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Employment

	2007/08	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Contaminated land reclamation and remediation	8,202	8,211	8,233

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Exports

£ million

	2007/08	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Contaminated land reclamation and remediation	92	95	87

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Growth forecasts[1]

Growth percentage

	Contaminated land reclamation and remediation
2010/11	2.8
2011/12	2.9
2012/13	3.0
2013/14	3.1
2014/15	3.2
2015/16	3.2

[1] Growth forecasts provided are based on aggregated forecasts for turnover.

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Research

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Transport, *(b)* Justice, *(c)* International Development, *(d)* Health and *(e)* Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on departmental research and development budgets. [79788]

Mr Davey: None. Decisions on Departments' research and development budgets are for their Secretaries of State.

Green Construction Board

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the terms of reference are of the Green Construction Board. [79897]

Mr Prisk: Terms of reference will be published shortly on the BIS website following consultation with Green Construction Board members.

Growing Places Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the Growing Places Fund; and on what dates. [80036]

Mr Prisk: Ministerial colleagues have many meetings with their departmental counterparts and discuss numerous issues. In addition, discussions between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and other Government Departments have been undertaken by officials based upon the direction of Ministers.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what involvement his Department will have through its local offices network in the approval of projects put forward under the Government's Growing Places Fund. [80037]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills local officials will not be involved in the approval of Growing Places Fund projects. The fund will be allocated as unringfenced grants and therefore, recipients will have the flexibility to allocate in line with local priorities. Local enterprise partnerships will be asked to complete a pre-qualification questionnaire and if they meet the requirements they will qualify for funding.

Higher Education: Teachers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of higher education professors in each subject area were *(a)* male and *(b)* female in each of the last three years. [78388]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* The numbers and proportions of professors at UK higher education institutions in each cost centre (includes subject areas) who were male and female are shown in the table for the academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Due to a change in the definition of the professorial role, comparable information for earlier years is not available. From 2008/09 onwards the professor role indicates whether the contract of employment confers the title of professor to the holder, regardless of whether an institution's local grade structure contains a professor grade. Prior to 2008/09 the professor grade included heads of department, professors, former Universities Authoritative Panel scale researchers (grade IV), clinical professors and those recorded as professors on a locally-determined scale. The differences in the definition of professor role and professor grade mean that these two categories are not comparable.

Academic professorial staff[1] by cost centre and gender—UK higher education institutions, academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10

	2008/09					2009/10				
				%					%	
Cost centre	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*
Science, Engineering and Technology (SET)[2] Departments										
Agriculture and forestry	5	50	50	[3]—	[3]—	0	55	60	3.5	96.5
Anatomy and physiology	30	125	155	20.1	79.9	30	125	160	20.3	79.7
Archaeology	5	85	90	7.6	92.4	5	80	85	8.7	91.3
Architecture, built environment and planning	30	255	285	11.0	89.0	40	275	310	12.3	87.7
Biosciences	180	1,040	1,220	14.9	85.1	185	1,030	1,220	15.3	84.7
Chemical engineering	15	115	125	10.6	89.4	15	115	130	11.2	88.8
Chemistry	30	430	460	6.3	93.7	35	420	450	7.3	92.7
Civil engineering	5	195	200	3.3	96.7	5	190	195	3.3	96.7
Clinical dentistry	20	125	150	13.9	86.1	20	125	145	14.7	85.3
Clinical medicine	450	1,860	2,310	19.5	80.5	470	1,830	2,300	20.4	79.6
Earth, marine and environmental sciences	35	355	390	8.8	91.2	40	380	420	9.3	90.7
Electrical, electronic and computer engineering	25	450	475	4.8	95.2	25	440	465	5.5	94.5
General engineering	20	245	270	7.6	92.4	25	270	290	8.0	92.0
Geography	50	270	325	15.8	84.2	50	260	305	15.8	84.2
IT and systems sciences, computer software engineering	65	495	560	11.5	88.5	65	490	555	11.6	88.4
Mathematics	40	680	720	5.6	94.4	45	665	710	6.1	93.9
Mechanical, aero and production engineering	25	405	430	5.7	94.3	25	415	440	5.2	94.8
Mineral, metallurgy and materials engineering	10	130	140	7.6	92.4	15	130	145	10.5	89.5
Nursing and paramedical studies	185	120	310	60.7	39.3	180	125	305	59.6	40.4
Pharmacy and pharmacology	45	170	210	20.4	79.6	45	150	195	22.9	77.1
Physics	35	600	635	5.8	94.2	35	615	650	5.5	94.5
Psychology and behavioural sciences	135	390	525	25.8	74.2	155	390	545	28.7	71.3
Veterinary science	30	125	155	18.9	81.1	25	110	135	19.6	80.4
Total SET	1,470	8,710	10,180	14.5	85.5	1,535	8,675	10,210	15.1	84.9
Non-SET Departments										
Business and management studies	240	1,170	1,410	17.0	83.0	240	1,140	1,375	17.2	82.8
Catering and hospitality management	0	20	25	[3]—	[3]—	0	25	30	[3]—	[3]—
Central administration and services	60	190	250	24.9	75.1	70	200	270	25.3	74.7
Continuing education	10	15	20	[3]—	[3]—	5	10	15	[3]—	[3]—
Design and creative arts	130	375	510	25.8	74.2	130	370	505	26.2	73.8
Education	210	305	515	40.8	59.2	205	290	495	41.5	58.5
Health and community studies	110	135	245	44.9	55.1	100	150	255	40.2	59.8
Humanities and language based studies	380	1,210	1,590	23.9	76.1	370	1,195	1,565	23.8	76.2
Media studies	45	115	160	28.6	71.4	50	115	165	30.3	69.7
Modern languages	90	230	320	28.0	72.0	95	215	310	30.9	69.1
Residences and catering	0	0	0	[3]—	[3]—	0	0	0	[3]—	[3]—
Social studies	485	1,660	2,145	22.6	77.4	480	1,560	2,040	23.6	76.4
Sports science and leisure studies	20	85	100	17.7	82.3	15	75	90	18.1	81.9
Staff and student facilities	5	5	10	[3]—	[3]—	5	5	5	[3]—	[3]—
Total academic services	15	40	55	28.1	71.9	15	30	45	[3]—	[3]—
Total Non-SET	1,800	5,555	7,355	24.5	75.5	1,785	5,380	7,165	24.9	75.1

Academic professorial staff[1] by cost centre and gender—UK higher education institutions, academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10

	2008/09					2009/10				
				%					%	
Cost centre	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Total	3,270	14,265	17,535	18.7	81.3	3,320	14,055	17,375	19.1	80.9

[1] Excludes atypical staff: atypical staff are those members of staff whose employment contracts involve working arrangements that are not permanent, involve complex employment relationships and/or involve work away from the supervision of the normal work provider.
[2] SET Departments listed in the table are consistent with Equality Challenge Unit definitions.
[3] Represents a percentage calculated on a population of 52 or fewer individuals.
Notes:
In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5, so components may not sum to totals. Percentages are not subject to rounding.
Source: HESA Staff Record 2008/09, 2009/10.

Pollution Control

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the potential *(a)* turnover, *(b)* level of employment and *(c)* level of exports attributable to the air pollution control sector in each year to 2020. [80019]

Mr Prisk: HM Government have made no estimates regarding projected turnover, employment or exports in the air pollution control sector.

However, independent research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills estimated the turnover, exports, number of jobs and forecast growth of the air pollution sub-sector, which includes activities such as industrial emission control and the environmental monitoring, instrumentation and analysis sub-sector which includes activities such as monitoring industrial emissions. Estimates include activity across the supply chain. The most recent data report on the 2009/10 financial year. The following tables provide 2009/10 estimates for turnover, employment, export and growth forecasts.

Total Sales

			£ million
Level 2	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Air Pollution	960	978	997
Environmental Monitoring, Instrumentation and Analysis	150	155	160

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Total Employment

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Air Pollution	9,160	9,157	9,186
Environmental Monitoring, Instrumentation and Analysis	1,458	1,449	1,449

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Exports

			£ million
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Air Pollution	151	161	161
Environmental Monitoring, Instrumentation and Analysis	20	20	19

Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Growth Forecasts[1]

		Growth percentage
	Air Pollution	Environmental Monitoring, Instrumentation and Analysis
2010/11	2.1	3.3
2011/12	2.1	3.5
2012/13	2.2	3.6
2013/14	2.2	3.8
2014/15	2.3	3.8
2015/16	2.4	4

[1] The growth forecasts provided are based on aggregated forecasts for turnover.
Source:
K-Matrix 2011

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any of the successful bids for the second round of the Regional Growth Fund were not part of the Independent Advisory Panel's original recommendations. [79283]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Independent Advisory Panel's job is to advise Ministers on which bids to the Regional Growth Fund to support. Final decisions on which bids to support rest with the Ministerial Panel's chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bids received to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund from each Government office region were not successful. [80033]

Mr Prisk: The following table gives a regional breakdown of unsuccessful bids received to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund.

	Number
North-west	101
North-east	80
Yorkshire and Humber	104
West midlands	83
East midlands	88
London, south-east and east of England	97
South-west	50
Other bids—national	71

Note:
The numbers include projects that were part of a package/programme bid

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the value of the bids to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund in each Government office region which were unsuccessful. [80034]

Mr Prisk: Summary information on the bids received in Round 2 and the list of successful bids is published on our website:

www.bis.gov.uk/rgf

We will publish information regarding the value of successful bids after they complete due diligence.

Science: Females

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to encourage the participation of women in science and engineering disciplines; [78360]

(2) what steps he is taking to encourage people to take up careers in science and engineering; [78361]

(3) what steps he is taking to encourage more women to take up *(a)* qualifications and *(b)* careers in physical science disciplines. [78362]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 December 2011]:* The coalition Government understand the importance of engaging all people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and encouraging more people to consider studying these core disciplines and pursuing careers related to STEM. We have a substantial programme of work in place to achieve this aim.

The Department has asked the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society to jointly develop a diversity programme for the STEM community. This will build on the academies' existing activities and excellent relationships with a diverse mix of institutions, and place a much greater emphasis on challenging the leaderships at all levels to take on responsibility for delivering the change needed to promote equality across all affected groups, including, but not exclusively focused on, gender.

The Department's work also includes helping all young people to appreciate how studying STEM disciplines, including engineering, leads to a wide choice of rewarding future career opportunities. Our support includes STEMNET and its cohort of 29,000 STEM ambassadors, National Science and Engineering Week, the Big Bang Fair and the National Science and Engineering Competition. We also run a three-yearly Public Attitudes to Science Survey which in 2011 included evidence about young peoples' attitudes to science.

In addition, we have worked with industry to launch 'See Inside Manufacturing': a programme of open days across industry, so that we can show young people who have never stepped inside a factory how exciting it can be. The programme has been piloted by the automotive sector this year, with taster events in June aimed at teachers and careers advisers and again in October involving young people as well. This autumn over 40 automotive companies across the UK opened their doors offering over 100 events to teachers, career advisers, parents and young people all showing the exciting and rewarding careers manufacturing offers. It is likely the programme will be rolled out more widely next year.

The National Apprenticeship Service identifies 27 current apprenticeship frameworks as having a STEM status. Additional STEM apprenticeship frameworks are being developed at advanced and higher levels, which will give apprentices the qualifications they need to meet the standards required to register for professional technician status.

Overall, women and men are fairly evenly balanced on apprenticeships, although we know that women are under-represented in some traditionally male-dominated sectors. The National Apprenticeship Service is currently funding 16 'Apprenticeship Diversity' pilots over the 12 months to March 2012, designed to test out different methods for improving access to apprenticeships for under-represented sections of society.

The Department works with the Department for Education to ensure that STEM issues affecting young people of all ages, from school to university, are considered in a coherent way. This includes regular joint meetings of Ministers from this Department and the Department for Education with representatives from the STEM community.

In addition, BIS's partners, including the national academies and the research councils, deliver a range of educational outreach activities directly aimed at school-aged students.

Science: Higher Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) courses each university offered in the last academic year for which figures are available; and whether his Department has targets in respect of *(a)* the number of and *(b)* participation in STEM courses. [75885]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 20 October 2011]:* Information on the numbers of UK-domiciled enrolments to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses at each UK higher education institution in the 2009/10 academic year is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

In allocating the teaching grant in future, BIS has asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to focus subsidy for teaching on subjects in Bands A and B, which include STEM subjects, and also on Strategically Important and Vulnerable Subjects (SIVS), which includes STEM subjects.

HEFCE does not generally have targets in respect of the number of or participation in STEM courses, although targets are set in relation to the numbers of students on undergraduate medical and dental courses and particular conditions of grant apply to some allocations to support provision in strategically important and vulnerable subjects, which includes some STEM subjects.

UK-domiciled enrolments[1] to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)[2] courses at each UK higher education institution. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Enrolments*	*Of which: STEM*
Aberystwyth University	9,155	2,685
Anglia Ruskin University	18,465	10,290
Arts University College at Bournemouth	2,220	70
Aston University	7,590	4,310

UK-domiciled enrolments[1] to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)[2] courses at each UK higher education institution. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Enrolments*	*Of which: STEM*
Bangor University	9,645	4,595
Bath Spa University	8,575	835
Birkbeck College	17,255	4,305
Birmingham City University	22,035	10,700
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	2,125	30
Bournemouth University	16,215	6,790
Brunel University	11,950	5,705
Buckinghamshire New University	8,195	3,605
Canterbury Christ Church University	16,675	5,595
Cardiff University	22,525	12,500
Central School of Speech and Drama	695	25
City University	11,880	6,895
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	890	0
Courtauld Institute of Art	285	15
Coventry University	18,570	9,365
Cranfield University	2,740	1,845
De Montfort University	20,430	8,570
Edge Hill University	24,770	6,440
Edinburgh College of Art	1,270	420
Edinburgh Napier University	10,730	6,435
Glasgow Caledonian University	15,590	9,770
Glasgow School of Art	1,275	370
Glyndwr University	5,120	2,265
Goldsmiths College	6,335	1,065
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	525	0
Harper Adams University College	4,320	4,105
Heriot-Watt University	7,555	3,800
Heythrop College	830	30
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	8,855	8,320
Institute of Cancer Research	245	245
Institute of Education	6,030	110
Kings College London	18,690	11,950
Kingston University	22,250	10,480
Leeds College of Music	655	0
Leeds Metropolitan University	25,580	8,970
Leeds Trinity University College	3,490	595
Liverpool Hope University	6,880	1,055
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	570	60
Liverpool John Moores University	22,585	11,610
London Business School	535	0
London Metropolitan University	18,120	4,925
London School of Economics and Political Science	3,300	320
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	655	655
London South Bank University	22,225	13,665
Loughborough University	13,010	7,800
Manchester Metropolitan University	32,260	10,860
Middlesex University	17,575	5,700
Newman University College	3,000	680
Norwich University College of the Arts	1,455	0
Nottingham Trent University	23,900	6,740
Open University	209,415	54,050
Oxford Brookes University	15,005	7,085
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	4,420	2,960
Queen Mary and Westfield College	11,025	6,400
Queens University of Belfast	20,565	10,755
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	1,090	125
Robert Gordon University	10,715	5,005
Roehampton University	8,025	2,070
Rose Bruford College	830	20
Royal Academy of Music	435	0
Royal Agricultural College	885	685
Royal College of Art	720	35
Royal College of Music	385	0
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	6,650	2,220
Royal Northern College of Music	560	0
Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	640	0
Royal Veterinary College	1,835	1,830
School of Oriental and African Studies	2,990	0
School of Pharmacy	1,145	1,145
Scottish Agricultural College	930	740
Sheffield Hallam University	31,045	13,715
Southampton Solent University	10,475	2,750
St Georges Hospital Medical School	4,890	4,890
St Marys University College	970	0
St Marys University College, Twickenham	4,230	1,090
Staffordshire University	18,775	8,760
Stranmillis University College	1,215	130
Swansea Metropolitan University	5,585	1,565
Swansea University	12,515	5,855
Thames Valley University	13,715	7,045
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	670	0
Trinity University College	2,695	75
UHI Millennium Institute[3]	7,280	3,190
University Campus Suffolk	5,250	2,665
University College Birmingham	3,300	745
University College Falmouth	3,025	0
University College London	14,935	9,905
University College Plymouth St Mark and St John	3,900	845
University for the Creative Arts	5,085	155
University of Aberdeen	11,995	5,095
University of Abertay Dundee	3,340	2,425
University of Bath	10,520	6,670
University of Bedfordshire	13,540	6,345
University of Birmingham	24,130	10,640
University of Bolton	8,405	4,395
University of Bradford	10,270	6,345
University of Brighton	18,305	8,420
University of Bristol	16,175	8,430
University of Buckingham	575	55
University of Cambridge	14,955	6,540
University of Central Lancashire	28,630	13,380
University of Chester	14,150	6,410
University of Chichester	5,120	1,050
University of Cumbria	12,150	4,380
University of Derby	15,560	6,525
University of Dundee	13,760	7,945
University of Durham	13,060	5,045
University of East Anglia	13,760	6,565
University of East London	21,465	7,820
University of Edinburgh	19,240	8,990
University of Essex	10,455	3,370

UK-domiciled enrolments[1] to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)[2] courses at each UK higher education institution. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Enrolments*	*Of which: STEM*
University of Exeter	13,615	4,875
University of Glamorgan	17,255	8,900
University of Glasgow	21,905	9,005
University of Gloucestershire	8,760	1,855
University of Greenwich	22,250	10,390
University of Hertfordshire	22,405	10,470
University of Huddersfield	20,450	7,195
University of Hull	19,495	6,130
University of Keele	9,380	4,595
University of Kent	16,010	5,055
University of Lancaster	9,470	2,510
University of Leeds	27,165	12,855
University of Leicester	13,525	5,175
University of Lincoln	11,175	3,855
University of Liverpool	17,330	9,280
University of London (institutes and activities)	275	0
University of Manchester	30,485	17,700
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	15,770	8,385
University of Northampton	12,540	4,435
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	26,565	13,175
University of Nottingham	25,850	15,180
University of Oxford	18,250	6,390
University of Plymouth	29,820	13,900
University of Portsmouth	19,020	8,325
University of Reading	11,385	4,260
University of Salford	18,345	9,465
University of Sheffield	20,095	10,110
University of Southampton	18,505	10,285
University of St Andrews	5,465	2,230
University of Stirling	8,955	3,425
University of Strathclyde	18,690	7,165
University of Sunderland	14,580	3,525
University of Surrey	10,760	6,815
University of Sussex	10,265	3,090
University of Teesside	26,255	16,365
University of the Arts, London	10,075	415
University of the West of England, Bristol	29,715	15,910
University of the West of Scotland	16,150	7,335
University of Ulster	22,425	10,215
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	8,710	3,620
University of Wales, Lampeter	2,125	130
University of Wales, Newport	8,530	1,760
University of Warwick	20,875	7,625
University of Westminster	18,320	6,455
University of Winchester	6,085	595
University of Wolverhampton	19,325	8,385
University of Worcester	8,965	3,525
University of York	12,050	5,680
Writtle College	[illegible]55	745
York St John University	5,650	1,755
Total	2,087,615	874,005

[1] Covers students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate courses. Figures include all years of study.

[2] STEM covers the following subject areas: Medicine and dentistry; Subjects allied to Medicine; Biological sciences; Veterinary Science; Agriculture and related subjects; Physical sciences; Mathematical sciences; Computer science; Engineering and technology; Architecture, building and planning.

[3] UHI = University of the Highlands and Islands.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population.

2. In this table 0, 1 and 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Science: Skilled Workers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* evidence he has received from businesses and organisations in the life sciences industry on skills shortages; [78784]

(2) what progress he has made in tackling the skills gap in the life sciences industry; and what external organisations and individuals he has involved in this work. [78787]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Department has received a range of correspondence that touches on skills in the life sciences sector. The main evidence we have received in this area was as a result of extensive consultation with stakeholders including business organisations and individual companies for the Growth Review, published in March. This highlighted a number of concerns relating to skills shortages in the sector. We have also recently carried out a major consultation that builds on the earlier Growth Review work, and this has reinforced the messages received in the earlier work.

Areas where concerns have been raised include practical skills such as laboratory skills, mathematical and analytical skills, commercialisation skills and skills related to specific disciplines. In order to address these issues, the Growth Review sets out two actions on skills. Firstly, Cogent, the sector skills council for the life sciences industry, is to lead on activities to improve market signalling by bringing companies and educators together to ensure educators provide the skilled individuals the sector needs to grow; and secondly support for the Society of Biology as it rolls out its accreditation scheme for biological sciences degrees, which will signal to students which degrees will provide the skills needed for a career in life sciences. The pilot scheme covers biochemistry and in vivo subjects, and is on track to deliver the first accreditations by March 2012. There are plans to expand the number of courses to be accredited in the following year.

Cogent has since developed an action plan that provides a framework for employers and educators to work together to address the issues identified, supported by a Strategy Board, that sets the strategic direction and a working level Advisory Council. In summary, the plan identifies the following priorities:

building effective two-way communication between employers, educators and others with an interest in skills;

tackling specialist skills gaps;

- developing a clear vision of careers for the sector; and
- brokering a laboratory placements scheme for graduates.

Longer-term challenges to be addressed by the action plan include:

- developing professional recognition of vocational qualifications;
- building management and leadership capability;
- delivering vocational pathways to higher education; and
- assessing the future skills demand of the bioeconomy in general.

In order to take this work forward, Cogent has formed four working groups focusing on placements, technician training, the needs of SMEs and improving demand signalling between employers and educators, and a work programme is currently under way.

In terms of membership, Cogent's Strategy Board and Advisory Council brings together representatives from industry, trade associations, academia, research organisations and skills providers, while the Society of Biology brings together representatives from academia, research organisations and Government.

Trade Promotion

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which international trade delegations UK Trade and Investment has participated in since May 2010; and how many *(a)* delegates, *(b)* representatives of the (i) UK Government and (ii) Welsh Government and *(c)* representatives of businesses primarily located in Wales attended on each delegation. [79247]

Mr Prisk: UKTI does not routinely record this level of information. To attempt to make it available could be done only at disproportionate cost.

UKTI is committed to working with the devolved Administrations of the UK in an effort to best represent the interests of both the UK and individual UK businesses.

UKTI organises numerous trade delegations/missions during the course of the year and these are open to companies wherever they are based in the UK.

Examples of recent delegations that UKTI has played a part in organising include high-profile Cabinet visits to China, Russia, Brazil and sub-Saharan Africa.

HEALTH

Cataracts: Older People

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost of treating elderly patients with cataracts in hospitals in the latest year for which figures are available. [79389]

Mr Simon Burns: While the Department does collect the estimated average cost of cataract procedures in hospitals, they are not sufficiently detailed to show the costs of treating older patients with cataracts. However, we have been able to estimate a figure by using data provided by the NHS Information Centre.

Figures collected from schedule 4 (national health service trusts and primary care trusts combined) of the national schedules of reference costs for the financial year 2009-10 (the most recent year for which data have been published) showed that in total £260 million was recorded as spent on cataract procedures.

Data provided by the Information Centre show that 84% of patients who received cataract operations in 2009-10 were aged 65 and over.

It is therefore estimated that £220 million was spent on cataract surgery for those aged 65 and over during 2009-10. This is based on the assumption that every patient incurs the same unit costs regardless of age.

Cataracts: Waiting Lists

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for cataract treatment in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [79800]

Mr Simon Burns: The provisional 2010-11 mean and median waiting times for cataract treatment in each strategic health authority (SHA) are provided in the following table.

Mean and median waiting time[1] and count of finished admission episodes (FAEs)[2] for cataract treatment[3] within each SHA of commissioner[4]: 2010-11

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

SHA of commissioner	*Total episodes in each SHA of commissioner*	*Mean waiting time (days)*	*Median waiting time (days)*
Total	338,581	64	57
North East Strategic Health Authority	21,106	58	56
North West Strategic Health Authority	45,801	68	63
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	35,142	56	48
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	29,575	59	56
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	33,407	69	63
East of England Strategic Health Authority	35,263	60	52
London Strategic Health Authority	43,512	58	50
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	28,738	71	64
South Central Strategic Health Authority	22,621	72	66
South West Strategic Health Authority	38,480	74	67
Foreign (including. other British Isles, Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	863	n/a	n/a

Mean and median waiting time[1] and count of finished admission episodes (FAEs)[2] for cataract treatment[3] within each SHA of commissioner[4]; 2010-11

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

SHA of commissioner	*Total episodes in each SHA of commissioner*	*Mean waiting time (days)*	*Median waiting time (days)*
Unknown	4,073	34	21

[1] Time waited (days) statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as published Referral to Treatment (RTT) time waited statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients between decision to admit and admission to hospital within a given period. Published RTT waiting statistics measure the time waited between referral and start of treatment.

[2] A finished admission, episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[3] Main procedure—contains four cataract treatments. The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (eg time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

The following combination of ICD-10 and OPCS-4 codes were specified to identify cataract treatment

ICD-10 codes
H25.—Senile cataract
H26.—Other cataract
Q12.0—Congenital cataract
H28.0A—Diabetic cataract*
H28.1A—Cataract in other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases*
H28.2A—Cataract in other diseases classified elsewhere*

It should be noted that the three asterisk (*) (A) codes listed above should never appear in the primary diagnostic position.

OPCS 4 codes:
C71.—Extracapsular extraction of lens
C72.—Intracapsular extraction of lens
C73.—Incision of capsule of lens
C74.—Other extraction of lens
C75.—Prosthesis of lens

[4] SHA of commissioner. This field contains a code which identifies the SHA in which the commissioner is located.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Capabilities Programme

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff work on the *(a)* infectious diseases: human, *(b)* mass casualties and *(c)* health services of the Capabilities Programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters. [79507]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's responsibilities for the infectious diseases workstream of the Capabilities Programme are managed as part of embedded overall infectious diseases policy work, and there are no full-time equivalent (FTE) staff allocated specifically to the workstream.

Since May 2011, the Department's responsibilities under the mass casualties and health services workstreams of the UK Capabilities Programme have been overseen jointly by 3.0 FTEs within the Department's policy branch and 3.0 FTEs covering national health service operational issues. However, these staff do not work exclusively on the Capabilities Programme, and have responsibilities for a broad range of other issues of civil resilience, emergency preparedness and counter-terrorism. It is not possible to identify the exact proportion of time spent on the Capabilities Programme by these staff.

Prior to May 2011, staffing numbers at the start of each quarter are as follows:

	Number
Q4 2010-11	5.0
Q3 2010-11	5.0
Q2 2010-11	5.0
Q1 2010-11	5.0
Q4 2009-10	5.0
Q3 2009-10	5.0
Q2 2009-10	4.0
Q1 2009-10	4.0

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010; [79547]

(2) how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79548]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day answered on time or late are shown in the following table.

	Questions answered on time	*Questions answered late and by number of working days*
June 2010	66	3 answered 1 day late 1 answered 17 days late 1 answered 3 days late
July 2010	129	1 answered 6 days late
September 2010	61	1 answered 1 day late 1 answered 5 days late
October 2010	63	0

	Questions answered on time	*Questions answered late and by number of working days*
November 2010	153	0
December 2010	80	0
January 2011	100	0
February 2011	111	0
March 2011	119	0
April 2011	60	0
May 2011	94	1 answered 2 days late
June 2011	161	0
July 2011	120	0
September 2011	61	0
October 2011	121	0

Note:
No written questions for answer on a named day were received in May 2010 or August 2010 and 2011.

No parliamentary questions have remained unanswered for two months since May 2010.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009/10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79549]

Mr Simon Burns: Special advisers do not routinely see draft answers to parliamentary questions but may do so; for example, if Ministers request it. All parliamentary question answers are the responsibility of the Minister who replies, and the clearance processes reflect this.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of questions for written answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the 2010-12 session of Parliament to date. [79914]

Mr Simon Burns: As of 7 November 2011, the Department has received 1,532 questions for written answer on a named day in the current session. Of those, 1,523 or 99.4% were answered on the due date.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Dialysis Machines

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of the average cost of *(a)* dialysis away from base and *(b)* dialysis carried out in a patient's normal unit when calculating the national tariff for dialysis. [79834]

Mr Simon Burns: The national tariffs for dialysis are underpinned by the costs reported by national health service providers as part of the annual reference costs exercise.

The information collected through reference costs does not differentiate between dialysis away from base and that carried out in a patient's normal unit. The data will contain the costs of independent units where that activity has been sub-contracted by NHS providers.

However, we are aware that there are additional costs associated with providing dialysis away from base. Therefore, we propose to introduce a flexibility in 2012-13 that would allow commissioners to pay above the national tariff to providers who see significantly high proportions, for example 80% to 90% of dialysis away from base patients.

Reference costs show that the national average unit costs for renal dialysis were £119 in 2008-09 and £128 in 2009-10.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of provision of dialysis away from base. [79835]

Mr Simon Burns: We have made no such assessment, but welcome the survey currently being undertaken by the Kidney Alliance which includes questions about this issue. We understand that the Kidney Alliance intend to publish the results of their survey in due course.

Health: Cabinet Committees

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Public Health to meet for the first time; how often he expects it to meet; how it will operate in relation to Public Health England; and if he will publish its responsibilities. [78582]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The membership and terms of reference for the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Public Health can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-committees-system-and-list-cabinet-committees

It is longstanding Government practice not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

Hydration: Hospitals

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department holds on the cost to the NHS of treating conditions that result from lack of hydration in hospitals in each year since 2001; [79739]

(2) what guidelines his Department issues on training for nurses on effective hydration for patients in hospital. [79740]

Paul Burstow: The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) sets the standards for pre-registration nurse education. Student nurses undertaking pre-registration nursing programmes will learn about hydration, including the assessment and monitoring of hydration status. The NMC has developed guidance on nutrition and fluid management within the essential skills clusters. This guidance is applicable to all fields of nursing and should be used by those providing pre-registration education.

The NMC essential skills clusters are available at:

http://standards.nmc-uk.org/Documents/Annexe3_%20ESCs_16092010.pdf

All providers of regulated activities, including hospitals and care homes, are required by law to have policies in place that protect people from the risks of dehydration. The Care Quality Commission can take action if these requirements are not being met.

There are a number of best practice resources and guidelines available to help providers develop their own policies. These include the Hydration Toolkit and Essence of Care which outlines quality provision of the fundamentals of care, including 'Food and drink'. The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement provides good practice examples and toolkits to help prevent prevention. The NHS Institute's website is available at:

www.institute.nhs.uk

Information about the cost of treating conditions that result from lack of hydration in hospitals is not collected centrally.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients who have been treated for dehydration in hospitals in the latest period for which figures are available. [79741]

Paul Burstow: In 2010-11 there were 196,897 finished consultant episodes where a primary or secondary diagnosis of dehydration was recorded.

Incontinence: Health Services

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many local arrangements outside the Drug Tariff for the supply of urology and stoma products are in place in England; [79442]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* clinical outcomes and *(b)* overall health care costs of patient choice in urology and stoma care. [79443]

Mr Simon Burns: As these are local arrangements, this information is not collected or held centrally.

While the aims of the new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for provision of stoma, urology and other appliances introduced in April 2010 included maintaining and, where applicable, improving the current quality of care to patients and maintaining local choice in the provision of services, no specific assessment of the effect on clinical outcomes and overall health care costs of patient choice in urology and stoma care has been carried out.

Locums

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 452W, on general practitioners, what his policy is on the rights of *(a)* patients and *(b)* members of the public to know the place of work of a locum GP working for the NHS. [79444]

Mr Simon Burns: Locums are engaged to work within general practice as and when they are needed in order to cover the work of other clinicians who are away from their practice. Therefore, the place of work of locums can and does change frequently depending on who has contracted for their services.

Medical Equipment

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to support small and medium-sized enterprises to develop innovative medical devices. [79954]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is very aware of the importance of new and innovative medical technologies and the role they can play in delivering the reforms. This is why we already have a number of initiatives in place to improve the relationship with the technology industry and the speed at which technologies are adopted by the national health service. As such, key initiatives will continue to support SMEs so that they can participate fully in the development and manufacture of new technologies.

The Department is committing £10 million to the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) over the next two years. SBRI uses the power of Government procurement to bring innovative solutions to specific public sector needs. It aims to drive innovation by supporting technology-based businesses, especially early-stage companies, through the stages of feasibility and prototyping which are typically hard to fund. A broad range of companies are engaged, through open competitions, for ideas that address specific challenges. Selected applicants are then awarded contracts to develop their technology.

The Department is committed to continuing the NHS Life Sciences Innovation Delivery Board, which was set up to look at ways in which the relationship between the life sciences industries and the NHS can be improved and support rapid adoption of innovative technologies. The Department is also keen for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to continue its role in evaluating medical technologies through the Evaluation Pathway Programme and the Medical Technologies Advisory Committee.

In addition, the Department's Innovative Technology Adoption Procurement Programme is providing a pathway for existing medical technologies to be considered by senior executives in the NHS.

Furthermore, the National Institute for Health Research Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme supports the development of innovative medical technologies that address existing or emerging health care needs in the NHS. i4i supports collaborative research and development involving at least two partners from industry, academia or the NHS. Small and/or early-stage companies are particularly welcome as applicants. Funding for the programme has increased from £4 million in 2006-07 to £13 million in 2011-12.

In summary, we are now exploring how the NHS can build processes and structures to support adoption at scale and pace at both a national and local level. As announced in the Plan for Growth, the NHS Chief Executive will report in November, on how the adoption and diffusion of innovations can be accelerated across the NHS.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of barriers to product innovation for manufacturers in the health sector. [79955]

Mr Simon Burns: Innovation is crucial to delivering a first-class health service, in terms of improving the quality of patient care and its contribution to economic growth. The national health service has an impressive track record of inventions and new ideas, but the adoption and spread of these ideas has been variable. That is why it is important that innovation is supported and encouraged, and why a series of initiatives to help encourage and foster innovation, and particularly the spread of innovation, have been implemented in the NHS.

As part of the 'Growth Review' which was released earlier this year, the Department is committing £10 million to the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) over the next two years. SBRI uses the power of Government procurement to bring innovative solutions to specific public sector needs. It aims to drive innovation by supporting technology-based businesses, especially early-stage companies, through the stages of feasibility and prototyping which are typically hard to fund. A broad range of companies are engaged, through open competitions, for ideas that address specific challenges. Selected applicants are then awarded contracts to develop their technology.

In addition, the Department's Innovative Technology Adoption Procurement Programme is providing a pathway for existing medical technologies to be considered by senior executives in the NHS.

Furthermore, the Government's modernisation agenda will encourage the NHS to be more agile, more dynamic and more open to ideas. We are now exploring how the NHS can build processes and structures to support adoption at scale and pace at both a national and local level. As announced in the Plan for Growth, the NHS chief executive will report in November, on how the adoption and diffusion of innovations can be accelerated across the NHS.

Medicine: Higher Education

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish *(a)* the total number of admissions to medical and dental schools and *(b)* the ethnic origin by (i) number and (ii) proportion of the total in each of the last 10 years. [79748]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the total intake of medical and dental students over the last 10 years is contained in tables which have been placed in the Library. Information on ethnicity is not held by the Department.

NHS

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS South of England or its successor organisation will be a permanent regional tier within the NHS Commissioning Board from 2013. [79792]

Mr Simon Burns: Strategic health authority (SHA) clusters will be abolished as the NHS Commissioning Board takes on its full functions.

Sir David Nicholson, chief executive of the NHS Commissioning Board Authority, has announced that the initial sub-national arrangements of the NHS Commissioning Board will mirror the geographical footprint of the SHA clusters (such as NHS South of England).

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the statutory basis is for the constitution of NHS South of England. [79798]

Mr Simon Burns: The constitution for NHS South of England is in line with the three existing statutory strategic health authorities, NHS South West, NHS South East Coast and NHS South Central, and their constitutions remain unchanged. The cluster now has a single board, and an integrated management structure. The board comprises members of the three statutory bodies.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Lorenzo computer system; [79751]

(2) what assessment he has made of the future of the Lorenzo computer system. [79752]

Mr Simon Burns: Versions of the Lorenzo computer system are presently used in various national health service trusts and performance is continuously monitored against the service targets set out in the contract with Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) who are the local service provider. The Department is presently working closely with CSC on future delivery options for the Lorenzo computer system.

In doing so the Department has taken into account the recent National Audit Office findings, the Public Accounts Committee observations and the Major Project Authority's conclusions on delivery of the National Programme for IT.

NHS: Pay

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salaries are of the executive team and non-executive board members of NHS South of England. [79783]

Mr Simon Burns: The chief executive of the NHS South of England is paid £204,048 annually. NHS South of England is a strategic health authority (SHA) cluster and its pay arrangements are governed by the Very Senior Manager (VSM) Pay Framework. Pay in each SHA cluster is determined according to organisation weighting (resident population weighted for age and deprivation) with an additional premium due to their complexity. The basic pay of each of the executive directors under the VSM Pay Framework is based on a percentage of the chief executive's salary, depending on the nature of the role. These salaries have not yet been agreed.

The information requested on non-executive board members of NHS South of England is not held centrally. Such information is available from the Appointments Commission and is given as follows:

The Chair of NHS South of England is paid remuneration of £63,049, the audit committee Chair is paid £13,136 and the five non-executive directors are each paid £7,882. Of the two Vice Chairs, one is paid £46,131 and the other £48,233 (the rates of remuneration they were on as SHA chairs before clustering). All are annual figures.

Obesity

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals advise his Department on matters relating to (i) obesity and (ii) alcohol. [79789]

Anne Milton: The Government sets policy on obesity and alcohol. We receive advice from experts and also views from a number of individuals and work with a wide range of partners, including the NHS service providers, academia, the third sector and business.

Palliative Care

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 458W, on palliative care, if he will make it his policy to create a mechanism for NHS doctors to anonymously record instances of the removal of life-sustaining treatments; and if he will publish an annual analysis of the data arising from such a mechanism. [79603]

Paul Burstow: Guidance for doctors on end of life care decisions, including decisions around the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, has been published by the General Medical Council ('Treatment and care towards the end of life: good practice in decision making (2010)'). Clinical governance and audit processes are already in [illegible] the NHS to ensure that care provision [illegible]

[illegible] an assessment was made of the Drug Tariff under his Department's innovation review. [79953]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made any such assessment. The NHS Chief Executive's review of innovation in the national health service has not made an assessment of the Drug Tariff, nor has it featured in responses to the review's Call for Evidence or subsequent discussions with stakeholders.

The Drug Tariff sets out what pharmacy and appliance contractors will be paid for provision of Pharmaceutical Services. It comprises 21 different parts, ranging from listings of pharmaceutical products, medical devices and appliances, and borderline substances which have the characteristics of drugs.

There are different processes for assessing the suitability of each of these types of product to be prescribed under General Medical Services Contracts Regulations. Across the application processes, the Department is keen to ensure there are no barriers to the introduction of innovative products in the NHS, providing they are safe and of good quality, suitable to prescribe in primary care and cost effective. There should be no barriers to prescribing a drug on the NHS unless it is listed in Parts XVIIIA or B of the Drug Tariff. Part XVIII is a replication of the list of products which are statutorily restricted from NHS prescription under the General Medical Services Contracts Regulations. Manufacturers seeking inclusion of an appliance to be prescribed on the NHS are given clear guidance on the application process in Drug Tariff Part IX Guidance to Manufacturers and Suppliers of Medical Devices which is available on NHS Prescription Services' website at:

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3399.aspx

The guidance details how NHS Prescription Services considers applications of innovative products.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that the determination of future funding needs for the public health system will not be based on the historic public health spending of primary care trusts. [79784]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), on 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1187W, which set out the process for determining the overall budget for the new public health system in England.

I have asked the [illegible]

radiotherapy [illegible] assessed against local priorities. It is the responsibility of each individual organisation to ensure that it adopts good asset management and financial planning. However, national teams such as the National Cancer Action Team and NHS Improvement provide support to help providers plan for their equipment needs.

Within the Cancer Peer Review programme, the radiotherapy measures require local organisations to agree an equipment replacement programme with their cancer network. The outcome of the Peer Review programme is shared with commissioners.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure the availability of an adequate number of trained radiotherapists. [79433]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department commissioned the Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CfWI) to identify future risks and opportunities for the health and social care work force and set the strategic context that will inform work force planning. This report, entitled 'Allied Health Professionals Workforce Risks and Opportunities', was published in June 2011 and a copy has been placed in the Library.

The CfWI has also been commissioned by the Department to undertake a piece of work to examine the future demand of non-medical staff and to develop supply strategies to meet this demand. The CfWI will publish its report on the non-medical work force in two stages, the first in December 2011 (which will include radiography) and the second in March 2012. This report will support and inform strategic health authority education commissioning, enabling the Department and strategic health authorities to understand non-medical demand and supply in greater depth, and thereby improve their work force planning strategies.

Surgery: Manpower

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vascular surgeons are employed by *(a)* the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and *(b)* Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. [79749]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Surgery: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Warrington required arterial surgery in the last five years for which figures are available. [79750]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 14 November 2011

SCOTLAND

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the Advocate-General for Scotland has met representatives of *(a)* Bell Pottinger Group or *(b)* each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80048]

David Mundell: Since his appointment in May 2010 the Advocate-General has not met with representatives of Bell Pottinger Group or its subsidiaries. The Advocate-General's Office do not hold records for the previous Administration.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80049]

David Mundell: Since May 2010 there have been no meetings between Scotland Office Ministers, officials or political advisers and the Bell Pottinger Group or its subsidiaries. We do not hold records for the previous Administration.

Immigration Controls

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has held with *(a)* Ministers in the Scottish Government and *(b)* Scottish police forces regarding the border access checks pilot introduced in summer 2011. [80507]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I have regular meetings with our Cabinet colleagues, Members of the Scottish [illegible] the Scottish police forces [illegible]

[illegible]

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many Roman archaeological sites there are in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each nation; and if he will make a statement. [80108]

John Penrose: English Heritage's National Record of the Historic Environment database indicates that English Heritage holds data on over 36,000 Roman archaeological sites in England. These are broken down by region in the following table:

Region	*Number of Roman sites*	*Percentage*
East midlands	4,569	12.6
East of England	5,996	16.5
London	1,039	2.9
North-east	2,831	7.8
North-west	2,817	7.8
South-east	7,158	19.7
South-west	6,361	17.5
West midlands	1,569	4.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,923	10.8
Total	36,263	100.0

Art Works: England

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many publicly owned works of art are on display in the open air in England; and if he will make a statement. [80107]

Mr Vaizey: In England, no Government Art Collection publicly owned works of art are on display in the open air. This Department does not collate this information for local authority museums or galleries, and to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost limit.

This Department does not hold this information for its sponsored galleries and museums. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the replies will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent assessment he has made of trends in access to the arts and culture *(a)* nationally and *(b)* regionally; and what steps he is taking to monitor and identify areas of the country which may be vulnerable to decline in the arts and culture sector. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] provides the culture [illegible]

http://www.dcms.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/7276.aspx

The "Eurostat Pocketbook on Cultural Statistics 2011" publication comprises a broad set of comparable data related to culture available in the EU-27, EFTA and candidate countries. It describes different aspects of culture: cultural heritage, cultural employment, enterprises in certain cultural sectors, external trade in cultural goods, households' cultural expenditure, and cultural practices. This is available at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-32-10-374/EN/KS-32-10-374-EN.PDF

The recently published Arts Council England Plan sets out the principal measures to improve the effectiveness of the arts sector.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80062]

John Penrose: A list of meetings between both the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), and the Permanent Secretary with 'outside interest groups' has been published on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) website, and can be found using the link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/category/other/meetings/

According to the information recorded by the Department, I can confirm that neither Ministers nor political advisers in DCMS have met representatives of the Bell Pottinger Group, or any of its subsidiaries since May 2010. We do not hold centrally information relating to ministerial meetings prior to this date.

The information requested relating to officials for each of the last five years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Creative Industries Council

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his assessment is of the frequency of the current meeting schedule of the Creative Industries Council [80414]

[illegible] of the Creative [illegible] ntervals up to [illegible] sensible. It [illegible] council on [illegible] to do some [illegible] ncil on their [illegible]

[illegible] for Culture, [illegible] his answers of [illegible] mn 1051W, on [illegible] ovember 2011, [illegible] rts, at what level [illegible] with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on access to finance for the creative industries; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills ahead of the next Economic Affairs sub-cabinet committee. [81102]

Mr Vaizey: The time-limited working groups set up by the council, including the one on access to finance capital, are led by industry, and supported by officials from both my Department and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The officials therefore meet on a regular basis to discuss how they can work closely together to ensure that the groups can do their work effectively. There have not been specific discussions with the Secretary of State on this subject before the next Economic Affairs Cabinet sub-Committee.

Cultural Heritage

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the contribution of heritage sites in *(a)* the South West, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales to the national economy; and what arrangements are in place to monitor the performance of the tourist economy for those areas. [80217]

Mr Vaizey: English Heritage estimates its sites in the South West, not including Stonehenge, contribute around £2.9 million to the economy. Stonehenge is anticipated to contribute £8.4 million in 2011-12. These figures are for revenue generated and do not reflect the costs incurred in caring for and opening the sites to the public.

VisitBritain and VisitEngland maintain regular inbound and domestic data, based on the International Passenger Survey and the Great Britain Tourism Survey.

Tourism and heritage are devolved matters and it is therefore appropriate for the Scottish and Welsh governments to respond.

Design: Costs

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80196]

John Penrose: The amount the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has spent on design, in the financial year 2010-11 are set out in the following table:

Spend on design, 2010-11

Area of spend on design	£
(a) Logos	5,824.20
(b) Buildings	0
(c) Advertising	5,400.00
(d) Stationery	0
(e) Campaigns	51,484.00

Grant Funding

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the level of funding provided by his Department to organisations based *(a)* in and *(b)* outside London. [80194]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides an annual breakdown of its funding and how that funding is distributed by region throughout the UK through its contribution to the Country and Regional Analysis (CRA). The CRA is compiled and published through HM Treasury on their website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespb_natstats_oct2011.htm

Within this analysis London is treated as a distinct region.

English Heritage

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding he has allocated to the *(a)* Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England and *(b)* English Heritage in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [80263]

Mr Vaizey: The hon. Gentleman's researchers will find figures from grant in aid to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, also known as English Heritage, at the following link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/

Updates will be published periodically in the same location.

Freeview Service

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received on channel allocation on the Freeview platform; and if he will place any representations in the Library. [80792]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has received a number of representations about the allocation of channels across all platforms, including Freeview. These have mainly been in response to the consultation on the Government's Local TV proposals and in response to the Department's 'open letter' as part of the Communications Review. Consistent with the Government's code of practice on consultations, responses to the open letter and local TV proposals will be published on the Department's website shortly.

Internet Governance Forum: Security

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans any specific measures relating to security issues for *(a)* intellectual property and *(b)* other theft within the UK Internet Governance Forum. [80151]

Mr Vaizey: We have no plans to table these issues for discussion in this forum. The next meeting of the UK Internet Governance Forum (UK IGF) will be held on 22 March 2012. Nominet (as the co-ordinator of the UK IGF) invites stakeholders to propose, and lead on, specific issues of concern to them, in particular those issues which are expected to feature in the programme of the global Internet Governance Forum which will be held in Baku in the autumn of 2012.

Museums and Galleries: Schools

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the level of access of school children from maintained schools to theatres, galleries, museums and heritage sites in *(a)* each region, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland; and what steps he is taking to promote such access. [80195]

Mr Vaizey: The Department's Taking Part Survey 2010-11 is a large national survey of children aged five to 15 and adults aged 16+, which assesses participation in culture across England. Data are not currently available by type of school, and to collate regional data would incur disproportionate cost.

In 2010-11, 98% of children had accessed the arts, with 44% of five to 10-year-olds, and 67% of 11 to 15-year-olds attending theatres. 65% had visited museums and galleries and 72% had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months. The latest child engagement findings can be found at:

http://www.dcms.gov.uk/publications/8398.aspx

From next April, Arts Council England (ACE) will be investing £10 million into a network of new Bridge Organisations to connect arts organisations and schools and help improve the overall delivery of arts opportunities for children. Their 10-year strategic framework "Achieving great art for everyone" commits to ensuring every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts. ACE's Renaissance programme aims to increase access for children and young people to renaissance museums. The number of visits by children in 2010-11, had more than doubled from 2,533,464 in 2002-03 to 5,173,695.

This Department's Sponsored Museums' "Performance Indicators 2010-11" include the number of educational visits made and is available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/8609.aspx

English Heritage's education team send regular e-newsletters to all state schools within England encouraging them to visit and learn at its properties. They also publish the magazine "Heritage Learning", which is aimed at supporting teachers, and hold a teachers' forum. Every effort is made to ensure that all schools are aware of English Heritage's "Learners Go Free" message.

Culture is a devolved matter in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and it is therefore appropriate for their Governments to respond.

News International

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of News International; and whether the BBC licence fee settlement was discussed at any such meeting. [80600]

Mr Vaizey: Details of special advisers' meetings with newspaper and other media proprietors, editors and senior executives will be published on a quarterly basis with effect from the period July to September 2011. Prior to this, and according to the information recorded by the Department, I can confirm that no meetings took place solely with News International staff and DCMS' special advisers. News International staff may have been present at meetings between News Corporation and the Department's *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials when discussing News Corporation's proposed acquisition of the remaining shares in BSkyB.

Minutes of meetings when the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), was present are available on the Department's website, and can be found using the link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/category/other/meetings/

Details of civil servants meetings are otherwise not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We are clear that at no time was the BBC licence fee settlement discussed in any of these meetings.

Ofcom

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what powers Ofcom has under the Communications Act 2003 to regulate DTT Multiplex Operators Ltd; and if he will make a statement. [80791]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Ofcom have advised:

> "DTT Multiplex Operators Limited does not currently hold a broadcasting licence. Certain of its activities involve the organisation of channel numbering for DTT Electronic Programme Guides. In so far as those activities are carried out on behalf of DTT Multiplex Operators, any regulatory issues would require consideration under the relevant multiplex licences. Pursuant to the Communications Act its activities are also subject to Ofcom's concurrent competition law powers under the Competition Act 1998."

Royal Parks

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Brazilian, *(b)* Chinese, *(c)* Indian, *(d)* Russian and *(e)* European counterparts on collaboration with the Royal Parks; and if he will make a statement. [80171]

John Penrose: Neither the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), nor I have taken part in any such discussions.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his office have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80047]

Sir George Young: Details of Cabinet Office Ministers' and permanent secretaries' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

and

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-permanent-secretaries%E2%80%99-meetings-external-organisations

Further detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Duchy of Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Leader of the House what the constitutional position of the Duchy of Cornwall is in respect of legislation before the House. [79969]

Sir George Young: It is a long-established convention that where Bills are due to affect the Crown formal prior consent is sought from the Queen for the way in which that Bill will affect the Crown. By convention, when there is a Duke of Cornwall of age, similar formal consent is sought from the Duke of Cornwall. Parliamentary procedure in both Houses requires Queen's consent to be given to a Bill if it affects the Royal prerogative or the interests (hereditary revenues, personal property or other interests) of the Crown, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall. In the case of the Duchy of Cornwall, the consent is needed because of the Sovereign's reversionary interest in the Duchy; and currently, while there is a Duke of Cornwall of full age, it falls to be given by the Prince of Wales. Although the Prince of Wales' consent is expressed to the Bill itself, it relates only to the aspects of it that affect the interests of the Duchy.

Legislation: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Leader of the House what plans he has to utilise the expertise of Select Committees in the scrutiny of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation. [79931]

Sir George Young: The Government recognises the value that pre-legislative scrutiny can add, and are committed to seeing more measures published in draft for scrutiny by Select or Joint Committees.

Except when there is specific provision in Standing Orders, it is for Select Committees themselves to decide whether they wish to examine and report on primary and secondary legislation. The Government are currently considering arrangements for scrutiny of certain draft orders under the Public Bodies Bill *[Lords]* and the Localism Bill and will bring forward proposals in due course.

Private Members' Bills

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations he has received relating to the procedures used for Private Members' legislation. [79930]

Sir George Young: I have received a range of representations on the House's procedures in respect of Private Members' Bills, including from hon. and right hon. Members during business questions and during the debate on 30 March 2011 on Private Members' days in the current Session.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food: Hygiene

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to improve *(a)* the delivery of food to supermarkets and *(b)* other food resilience mechanisms. [80772]

Mr Paice: The UK has a highly effective food supply chain, providing wide consumer choice. The food industry has robust and resilient business continuity plans against disruption from threats or natural hazards. DEFRA works closely with all parts of the industry and other Departments to ensure that Government provide appropriate support to the sector if required.

Food: Prices

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on food prices support for British food manufacturing. [79185]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has had discussions with BIS in the normal course of business as part of the Government's growth review, and we continue to work with BIS and UKTI to help boost growth in the food sector. The Secretary of State has also recently chaired a round table with a wide range of food industry stakeholders to look at how the Government can help the food and drink sector to grow. Additionally, we continue to work, in the UK and internationally, to promote open global markets, boost trade and ensure a growing population is fed in a way that reduces environmental impacts and supports an environmentally sustainable food sector. The impact of rising food prices are a concern for the Government. While it is not the Government's role to control, or intervene in support of food prices, we know that export bans, stock levels, energy prices and damaged harvests do affect prices, so these are things the Government are keen to address.

Honey: EU Law

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will estimate the potential cost to producers of honey in the UK of a requirement to re-label and test all honey products as a result of the European Court of Justice ruling that pollen should be listed as an ingredient of honey; and if she will make a statement; [80104]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of honey suppliers and beekeepers who may go out of business as a result of the European Court of Justice ruling that pollen should be listed as an ingredient of honey; and if she will make a statement; [80105]

(3) what steps she plans to take to protect beekeepers following the European Court of Justice ruling that pollen should be listed as an ingredient of honey; and if she will make a statement. [80109]

Mr Paice: This matter is being discussed at EU level. We are arguing that beekeepers and the honey industry should not be faced with unreasonable costs because of the ruling made by the Court, and want the European Commission to propose a pragmatic solution. DEFRA and the Food Standards Agency are working together on this, and to help make the case for action the UK honey sector has recently been asked for evidence on the potential effects of the ruling.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will make it her policy to ban the import of processed eggs incorporated into a food product where the eggs are from hens housed in conventional battery cages that do not comply with the provisions of EU directive 1999/74/EC in other EU member states from 1 January 2012; [79883]

(2) if she will make it her policy to ban the import of egg products derived from hens housed in conventional battery cages that do not comply with the provisions of EU directive 1999/74/EC in other EU member states from 1 January 2012. [79884]

Mr Paice: The Commission is actively working on a practical enforcement solution and the Government will be contributing to ensure that any solution is as tight as possible, to protect our producers.

We are in the process of developing an enforcement strategy which will consider all viable options to protect compliant producers. We are also considering other measures we could introduce swiftly should the Commission fail to find a robust enforcement approach.

Ragwort: Poisoning

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of ragwort poisoning have been reported in each of the last five years. [75954]

Mr Paice: The Weeds Act 1959 allows the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to take statutory action to control the spread of injurious weeds such as common ragwort. However, DEFRA does not hold figures on the number of animals suffering from ragwort poisoning.

PRIME MINISTER

Brazil: UN Conference on Environment and Development

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to attend the Rio Earth summit in 2012. [80980]

The Prime Minister: UK representation at the Rio Earth summit 2012 has yet to be fully decided. I can confirm that the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), will attend.

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on dangerous dogs since May 2010. [81041]

The Prime Minister: I have discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a range of subjects. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) on 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 921.

Members: Surveillance

Karl McCartney: To ask the Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the Wilson doctrine. [80588]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (Jonathan Edwards) on 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 35W.

Written Questions

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister whether it is his policy to sign off draft answers to written parliamentary questions tabled to him. [80158]

The Prime Minister: Yes.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the location is of each breeding centre overseas which supplies non-human primates to the UK for the purpose of scientific research. [79917]

Lynne Featherstone: The overseas breeding centres that have supplied non-human primates to the UK for the purpose of scientific research during the past two years are located in China, Mauritius and Vietnam.

Antisocial Behaviour: Internet

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she plans to take to deal with antisocial behaviour and actions on the internet; [80173]

(2) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of laws to deal with antisocial actions and behaviour on the internet. [80174]

James Brokenshire: We have been clear that tackling antisocial behaviour, and protecting vulnerable victims, should be core business for the police and their local partners. That should be the case whether the behaviour in question takes place online or offline.

A number of the current powers to tackle antisocial behaviour can be used to address both online and offline activity. The Government have consulted on proposals to give the police and their partner a set of streamlined, speedier, more effective powers, and I would envisage that they could be applied to antisocial behaviour online where appropriate.

Asylum

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful asylum seekers deported from the UK were refused entry on arrival at the country of their origin and subsequently returned to the UK in each of the last 24 months. [80340]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not record this information on the Case Information Database (CID). To obtain this information would require a case by case search.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 330W, on domestic violence: immigrants, what steps she plans to take to protect victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds and have not been successful in their application for indefinite leave to remain. [79760]

Damian Green: The answer of 11 October 2001, *Official Report*, column 330W, confirmed that support is currently provided through the Sojourner project to victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds to enable access to a refuge for a limited period while an application for leave for indefinite leave to remain as a victim of domestic violence is considered by the UK Border Agency. From April 2012, those currently eligible for Sojourner support will be given a short period of leave to enable them to access welfare benefits while their claim for indefinite leave is made and considered.

The support will continue to be limited to those who have entered the UK as a spouse, civil partner, un-married or same-sex partner of a British citizen or a person present and settled in the UK, and who are able to demonstrate that their relationship was caused to permanently break down as a result of domestic violence. There are no plans to extend support to those whose claim to be a victim of domestic violence is ultimately not upheld.

Capabilities Programme

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many full-time equivalent staff work on the *(a)* chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear resilience and *(b)* mass fatalities workstream of the Capabilities Programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters; [79510]

(2) who the lead Minister in her Department is for the *(a)* chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear resilience and *(b)* mass fatalities workstream of the Capabilities Programme; [79511]

(3) what the budget was for the *(a)* chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear resilience and *(b)* mass fatalities workstream of the Capabilities Programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79512]

James Brokenshire: Ministerial responsibility in the Home Office regarding these two workstreams is split across two portfolios. I am responsible for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear resilience (CBRN) while the Minister of State for Crime Prevention and Antisocial Behaviour, my noble Friend Lord Henley, is responsible for mass fatality incidents.

The Home Department does not break down the counter-terrorism budget beyond what is already published for reasons of national security. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal these details. You will also be aware that the CBRN resilience workstream goes wider than just the Home Office contribution.

Locally collated management information, which may be subject to change, indicates that full-time equivalent staff over the past 10 quarters for CBRN was as follows:

	Quarter	*Full-time equivalent staff*
2009	Q2	28
2009	Q3	27
2010	Q4	27
2010	Q1	25
2010	Q2	25
2010	Q3	23
2011	Q4	25
2011	Q1	21
2011	Q2	24
2011	Q3	19

The public order unit mass fatalities budget from 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

	£
2007-08	1,500,000
2008-09	1,500,000
2009-10	1,500,000
2010-11	1,685,293
2011-12	1,606,280

The provisional budget for the public order unit mass fatalities workstream for 2012-13 is £1,464,000 and for 2013-14 it is £1,604,000. These figures have not been signed off and are provisional indications of the budget for this workstream.

In each of the last 10 quarters there have been three full-time equivalent staff working in the mass fatalities team in the Home Office's public order unit.

Entry Clearances

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to require a health insurance certificate to be submitted with a visa application. [80583]

Damian Green: The Government announced their intention to conduct a further review of migrants' access to the NHS on 18 March. The Department of Health will consider whether to introduce a requirement for health insurance tied to visas as part of this review.

EU Law

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by her Department. [79913]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has three EU directives pending transposition into UK domestic legislation. These are:

Directive 2011/36/EU—Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA;

Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes;

Directive 2008/51/EC amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (only insofar as it relates to the amended Article 4. The Directive as a whole has been transposed.)

Financial Services

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had discussions with (i) the Bishop of London and (ii) the authorities of St Paul's Cathedral on the Occupy London Stock Exchange protest; and if she will make a statement. [79365]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* Ministers and officials have received regular updates on the Occupy London Stock Exchange protest. This has included discussions with the cathedral authorities, the City of London Corporation and the police.

Firearms: Licensing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to curb the flow to criminal gangs of ammunition for illegal firearms. [79912]

James Brokenshire: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) works with partners in the UK, including the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) and the UK Border Agency, and in Europe to reduce the possession and use of firearms by organised criminals and by street gangs involved with the drugs trade. Strong international links enable SOCA to prevent the criminal importation of firearms and ammunition, and together with SOCA's collaborative operational activity in the UK reduces the availability and use of firearms on streets in the UK.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi nationals who have no legal basis to remain the UK have been removed to Iraq in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [80985]

Damian Green: The following table shows the total number of removals and voluntarily departures of Iraqi nationals from the UK to Iraq in each month from May 2010 to June 2011.

Monthly total removals and voluntary departures[1], nationals of Iraq to Iraq[2] May 2010 to June 2011[3]

	Number of departures
May 2010	13
June 2010	69
July 2010	22
August 2010	36
September 2010	94
October 2010	66
November 2010	26
December 2010	22
January 2011	19
February 2011	39
March 2011	46
April 2011	15
May 2011	8
June 2011	26

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by Refugee Action from April 2011 (previously run by the International Organisation for Migration) and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Destination as recorded on source database.

[3] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within 'Immigration Statistics'. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in tables rv.01 to rv.08 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Quarterly data for July to September 2011 will be published as part of the regular Home Office publication scheme on 24 November.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure businesses are aware of the penalties for employing illegal immigrants. [79775]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) works closely with other Government partners, such as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), and trade bodies to provide business-to-business communications, targeting employers with enforcement messaging about illegal working operations and civil penalties. For example, during 2010 we completed a large number of employer awareness sessions, working jointly with HMRC, reaching more than 5,700 delegates.

The Comprehensive Guidance for Employers on preventing illegal working and the shorter Summary Guidance were updated last year and widely publicised. Both documents include clear guidance on the level of civil penalties to be levied on employers found to be employing workers illegally.

UKBA enforcement teams complete educational visits to employers and the agency works closely with employer organisations to raise awareness of the civil penalty regime.

National and regional media are regularly used to highlight successful enforcement and immigration crime operations, including details of the penalties faced by employers who break the rules.

The agency uses online channels to promote operations, publish names of non-compliant employers and provide guidance on preventing illegal working. This information is provided through the UK Border Agency website, social media channels such as Twitter, and partner channels such as Businesslink.gov.uk. and Direct Gov.

Immigration Controls

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed applicants under the Highly-Skilled Migrants programme have subsequently been deported; and what the average cost of completing deportation proceedings against such people was in the latest period for which figures are available. [80341]

Damian Green: The Highly-Skilled Migrants programme ran from January 2002 to March 2008. 485 failed applicants to the programme have been removed from the UK.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is unable to provide an average cost of completing deportation proceeding as there are many variables, including:

whether the person makes a voluntary or supervised departure;

whether the person has to be detained in order to facilitate their removal;

whether they have to be escorted;

whether we have to apply for a travel document for their return;

whether they are accompanied by dependants, and if so how many;

the destination to which they are being returned;

legal challenges.

Immigration: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which airports and ports in Scotland participated in the border access check pilot introduced in summer 2011. [80508]

Damian Green: The pilot of the risk-based controls included the Scottish airports of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Prestwick.

Knives: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to remove knives from criminals. [79974]

James Brokenshire: The Government have set out a cross-Government plan to tackle gang and youth violence, including knife crime.

The Government's position is clear: any adult who commits a crime using a knife can expect to be sent to prison and serious offenders can expect a long sentence. The Legal Aid, Punishment and Sentencing of Offenders Bill currently going through Parliament includes a new offence of carrying a knife or offensive weapon in a public place or school and going on to threaten or endanger another, with a minimum mandatory sentence of six months custody for those over 18 and a four-month detention and training order for those aged 16 and 17.

The Home Office has already committed £18 million of funding for 2011-13 to support the police, local agencies and the voluntary sector to tackle knife, gun and gang-related violence and prevent youth crime. A further £10 million will be made available to up to 30 areas in 2012-13 to help develop their early intervention response to serious youth violence.

We are introducing a new offence of carrying a knife or offensive weapon in a public place or school, to threaten or endanger another, with a minimum mandatory sentence of six months custody for those over 18 and a four-month detention and training order for those aged 16 or 17.

We are implementing the Coalition Agreement commitment that the Government will make hospitals share non-confidential information with the police, so they know where knife (and gun) crime is happening and can target stop-and-search in crime hot spots.

Licensing Act 2003

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on reform of the Licensing Act 2003. [80313]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office carried out a major public consultation on proposals to overhaul the Licensing Act 2003 in favour of local communities last year. Over 1,000 responses were received. A detailed analysis of those representations and the Government's response to them was published on 1 December 2010 and is available on the Home Office website on this link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/alcohol/rebalancing-consultation/

The reforms were included in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. We have since received a number of representations on the reforms representing the wide cross-section of interest in alcohol licensing. Ministers and my officials have met, and will continue to meet with, a number of organisations representing those with an interest in alcohol licensing and work to implement the reforms.

Passports

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce waiting times for the issue of new passports. [80963]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) currently asks customers to allow at least six weeks to process applications from adults applying for their first passport, three weeks to process straightforward properly completed applications, and one week for applications submitted using the Fast Track service. IPS also offers a same day Premium service.

95% of applications for new passports are currently being processed in 10 days, which is well within the IPS published turnaround times.

Theft: Large Goods Vehicles

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the extent of theft of and from HGVs: and what steps her Department is taking to reduce such thefts. [79933]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has made no specific assessment of thefts of and from HGVs. Responsibility for reducing such thefts lies with the police. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service has a dedicated desk tackling road freight crime through intelligence gathering and dissemination, crime prevention and enforcement activity.

Theft: Retail Trade

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce levels of retail theft. [80964]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office takes all crimes against businesses seriously and works with a range of organisations and partnerships to tackle retail theft.

The Home Office works closely with the ACPO Acquisitive Crime Programme Board and its sub-groups to deliver across a range of crime types that affect retailers.

The Home Office co-chairs the National Retail Crime Steering Group, the national partnership to tackle crimes against retailers. It is delivering a plan focused on crime priorities affecting retailers. This includes strengthening local partnerships between retailers and law enforcement agencies; taking steps to develop safe working and trading environments; supporting designing out crime techniques; and working with the criminal justice system to ensure that effective sanctions and deterrents to retail crime are available.

UK Border Agency: Stress

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of working days lost by UK Border Agency staff was attributed to stress-related conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [80543]

Damian Green: 0.58% of total working days available to UK Border Agency staff for October 2010 to September 2011 was lost to stress-related conditions. (Stress-related conditions are classed as mental health issues including stress, anxiety and depression).

UK Border Agency: Telephone Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone calls the UK Border Agency helpline has received in the last 12 months. [79923]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency operates four helplines in the UK. The total number of calls received during the period 1 November 2010 and 31 October 2011 is as follows:

Helpline	*Number of calls*
Customer Contact Centre (Sheffield)	460,606
Immigration Enquiry Bureau	1,549,469
Customer Contact Centre (Liverpool)	807,938
Asylum	58,166
Total calls	2,876,279

The figures provided are based on local management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional

WALES

Animal Welfare

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had on the mandate of the National Crime Agency to deal with wildlife crime in Wales. [80611]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office is fully engaged with the Home Office on the development of the National Crime Agency that is expected to be fully operational by December 2013. Wales Office Ministers and officials will feed in issues relating to crime in Wales as part of this process.

Barnett Formula

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times she has met Treasury Ministers to discuss reform of the Barnett formula since May 2010. [80534]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with Treasury Ministers on matters relating to Wales. The Government have made clear that their priority is to reduce the deficit, and therefore any change to the Barnett formula must await the stabilisation of the public finances.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has received any representations expressing concern about the policing of a badger cull in Wales. [80481]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has received a range of representations on issues related to the eradication of Bovine TB in Wales.

Animal Health and Welfare is devolved in Wales and policing arrangements of any eradication programme in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Government in conjunction with police forces in Wales.

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on badger culling using shooting. [80482]

Mr David Jones: None. Responsibility for the management of the spread of bovine TB and the method for its control in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Government.

Business Advisory Council

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what advice she has received from members of her Business Advisory Council since May 2010. [80487]

Mrs Gillan: The Wales Office Business Advisory Group provides me with an opportunity to hear directly from members about the issues which are affecting businesses in Wales.

The group has had discussions on a range of issues that affect Wales including:

the electrification of the Great Western Main Line;
enterprise zones;
the Growth Review and Budget;
employment;
energy;
research and development;
training; apprenticeships;
inward investment; and
policies aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Wales.

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with her Business Advisory Council on support for *(a)* the construction industry, *(b)* the creative industries and *(c)* manufacturing industry in Wales. [80533]

Mrs Gillan: The Wales Office Business Advisory Group discussed, on an informal basis, a range of issues affecting businesses in Wales across a range of sectors including the construction industry, the creative industries and manufacturing.

Commission on Devolution in Wales

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what budget her Department plans to provide for the Commission on Devolution in Wales. [80479]

Mrs Gillan: The budget for the life of the Commission on Devolution in Wales is around £1 million, funded from existing budgets.

Departmental Assets

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assets with a value of £1,000 or more her Department has bought since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [80616]

Mr David Jones: None.

Departmental Billing

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average cost to her Department is of processing the payment of an invoice. [80621]

Mr David Jones: The average cost to the Wales Office for processing the payment of an invoice is £4.77.

Design: Costs

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what contracts her Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information her Department holds on the location of such companies. [80176]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has awarded no design contracts since May 2010.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80211]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what applications for judicial review have been made against her Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by her Department for each such application; in each failed application whether she applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether her Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80705]

Mr David Jones: There have been no applications for judicial review.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in her Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [80532]

Mr David Jones: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 165-6W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond).

Press: Subscriptions

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines since May 2010. [80580]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office financial information is held in financial years.

In the year 2010-11 the cost of newspapers, periodicals and professional magazines was £14,573.03.

For the period 2011-12 up to the end of September, the latest date for which information is available, the cost is £2,881.15.

The figure for the current year reflects that the Department has significantly reduced the number of titles it purchases.

Security Vetting

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* press officer in her Department; [80485]

(2) what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* civil servants of grade seven or above and *(b)* special advisers in her Department. [80486]

Mr David Jones: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 167W, to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett).

Devolution

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with Welsh Government Ministers on the devolution of energy policies to Wales. [80539]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues and he has raised the issue of devolution of energy consents with me informally during these discussions.

A formal request was made by the Welsh Government to the Prime Minister in July and we have responded setting out that there remains no compelling evidence at present to support a change to the current devolution settlement in relation to energy consents.

The Government have established the Silk Commission, which will examine the boundary between what is devolved and non-devolved, and to make recommendations on any modifications to the settlement which are likely to have a wide degree of support.

Drugs

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with Welsh Government Ministers on drug usage in Wales. [80536]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with Ministers in the Welsh Government on a range of matters relevant to Wales.

The Government's Drug Strategy 2010, sets out our approach to tackling drugs across England, and in Wales, in the non-devolved areas of policing, criminal justice and the work of the Department for Work and Pensions. The strategy represents a major change to policy and sets out a fundamentally different approach to preventing drug use and in supporting recovery from drug and alcohol dependence.

The Welsh Government have their own approaches to tackling substance use in areas that are devolved in Wales and as a result was consulted during the development of the strategy.

Copies of the strategy are available in the Library and at the link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/drug-strategy-2010/

Electrification

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on full electrification of the railway line between London and Swansea. [80535]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with Ministers in the Department for Transport, on various issues that affect Wales, including rail infrastructure.

Following our decision to electrify the line to Cardiff, the case for electrification between Cardiff and Swansea remains under review.

Finance

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has carried out an economic impact assessment for Wales on the effect of the Government's spending reductions. [80574]

Mrs Gillan: The comprehensive spending review delivers a fair deal for Wales and the reduction in the Welsh Government's budget is smaller than the UK average.

Departments across Government inform the Wales Office of all spending plans in Wales but it is for those individual Departments to carry out impact assessments in relation to any spending undertaken in Wales in non-devolved areas. It is for the Welsh Government to make their own impact assessments of spending reductions they make in areas for which they are responsible.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on separated and trafficked children in Wales. [80610]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with the Welsh Government on a wide range of issues, including the welfare of children in Wales.

We recognise the importance of tackling the issue of separated and trafficked children and we will be meeting with the Anti Human Trafficking Co-ordinator for Wales before the end of the year.

Inward Investment

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will estimate the level of inward investment to Wales since May 2010. [80488]

Mrs Gillan: For the most recent full financial year (2010-11), UKTI recorded 38 investment projects to Wales, with 2,444 new jobs created and a further 1,100 jobs safeguarded. This accounted for 4% of the total number of foreign direct investment projects brought into the UK.

Joint Ministerial Committee

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when and where the next meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee will take place. [80576]

Mrs Gillan: The next plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee is expected to take place in late summer 2012. The relevant sub-committees will meet as normal in advance of that meeting.

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when and where the last meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee took place; and what was discussed. [80577]

Mrs Gillan: The Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) annual report, which was issued on 9 June 2011, listed all meetings of the JMC in the previous 12 months and the agenda items discussed.

Legal Opinion

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in her Department work in its legal section. [80613]

Mr David Jones: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 15W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond).

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in her Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years. [80617]

Mr David Jones: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 165W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond).

Security

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people are in possession of a security pass for her main departmental headquarters. [80581]

Mr David Jones: There are 58 holders of security passes for the Wales Office's main building.

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter-terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting for officials and special advisers in her Department. [80618]

Mr David Jones: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 166W, to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett).

On 3 October 2011, the Defence Vetting Agency became Defence Business Services National Security Vetting.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and [illegible] allowance claimants there were in Wales in [illegible]

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the impact of the strategic defence and security review on Wales. [80537]

Mrs Gillan: Decisions relating to the strategic defence and security review have clearly shown the Government's commitment to retaining a strong military footprint and supporting the defence industry in Wales.

As part of the review, we confirmed our commitment to order 22 A400M, which will come into service as planned in 2014. This is good news for employees of Airbus, including the 6,500 workers based at Broughton in Flintshire. The Scout Specialist Vehicle contract with General Dynamics UK also brings much needed job security to defence industry workers in South Wales.

The decision to retain 160 Brigade at Brecon recognises the strong links that have been built with the forces in this Welsh community over the last century, and we are boosting the defence presence at St Athan.

I will continue to work with the Ministry of Defence to ensure the continued strength of the armed forces and the defence industry in Wales.

Telephone Services

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has allocated to each public telephone line funded by her Department in 2011-12. [80483]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not fund any public telephone lines.

Unemployment

The Government are determined to tackle long-term unemployment in Wales and across the UK. Our reforms to the benefits system to strengthen work incentives and to make sure that work always pays will have a particularly significant impact in Wales which has suffered so badly [illegible]

Mr David Jones: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 16W, to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger).

DEFENCE

Service Personnel: Housing

19. **Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department is providing to service personnel to access affordable housing. [80087]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence continues to support home ownership for service personnel through its home ownership scheme. We also encourage service personnel to explore the three main schemes available through the Government to help purchase a property. These are First Buy, New Build Home Buy, and Home Buy Direct. Service personnel are now in the highest priority group for access to First Buy schemes.

Defence Reform Review

20. **Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in implementing the recommendations of the defence reform review. [80088]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department continues to make progress in transforming defence so that we clear up the £38 billion black hole our predecessors left behind and build a defence capability fit for the future. I [illegible] a new top-level command structure for the Army in line with Lord Levene's recommendations; enshrined in law the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant; and launched a further Voluntary Early Release Scheme for 2012 to 2014 for the MOD's civilian work force.

[illegible] equipment are world class.

At its peak, some 2,300 British servicemen and women were deployed on Operation Ellamy. We deployed 32 aircraft including 16 Tornado GR4s, six Typhoons, five attack helicopters, refuelling tankers and specialist surveillance aircraft and helicopters. Over the course of the operation we also deployed eight warships and attack submarines.

I was delighted to have the opportunity two weeks ago to visit our servicemen and women in Gioia del Colle so I could see at first hand the superb work they have done.

Reservists

23. **Pamela Nash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what incentives are available to encourage people to become reservists. [80091]

Mr Robathan: There are many reasons why people join the reserve forces, including the desire to serve their country. There are an extensive range of opportunities available which can enhance professional development and personal skills to those that choose to do so. In addition, a good financial package is available when the reservist meets various commitments.

EADS

24. **Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department is providing to EADS to win the combat jet tender for the Indian air force. [80092]

Defence Munitions: Beith

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effects of changes to Ministry of Defence policy [illegible] levels at

[illegible] he had during an overseas visit at which Mr Adam Werritty was present; and what was discussed at each meeting; [75493]

(2) whether he sought advice from his Department's civil servants before attending any meetings at which Mr Adam Werritty was present. [75494]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* I have not attended any meetings at which Mr Werritty was present.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to paragraph 14 of the report by the Cabinet Secretary of 18 October 2011, who offered private office attendance to the then Secretary of State for overseas visits. [76579]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The offer to attend the meetings in Dubai and Israel was made by the member of the Private Office staff of the then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), who was travelling with him.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Minister for international security strategy sought advice from the permanent secretary of his Department prior to his meeting with Adam Werritty and Stephen Crouch on 27 September 2011. [80157]

Mr Gerald Howarth: This was an early introductory meeting, as was made clear in the Cabinet Secretary's report published on 18 October 2011. As such, I did not raise the issue with the Permanent Secretary before it

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria he has set to define the end of Operation Herrick. [77526]

[illegible] and other ISAF partners.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress he has made towards the deployment of the Foxhound vehicle to Afghanistan. [79776]

Peter Luff: The first Foxhound lightweight protected patrol vehicles are expected to be delivered for training purposes in the UK by the end of the year and to be available for operations in Afghanistan, by personnel trained in their use, from the spring of 2012.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training his Department provides to military personnel on responding to emergencies and natural disasters; and how many such emergencies and natural disasters have been responded to since 2008. [79112]

Nick Harvey: Those elements of the armed forces which provide specialist capabilities to the civil authorities are regularly trained and exercised for their role. These include Royal Navy ships, explosive ordnance disposal, search and rescue teams, and counter-terrorist forces.

Other elements of the armed forces will not be involved routinely in responding to emergencies or natural disasters, although they may be called upon to support the lead responders in particularly difficult circumstances. They would be provided with such training as was necessary prior to any such deployment. Defence also takes part in the UK national exercise programme in order to exercise its role in support of the civil authorities. The military chain of command in the regions of the UK [illegible]

of Defence has responded to approximately 14 emergencies and natural disasters overseas and nine in the UK. These include a wide range of activities from humanitarian assistance following hurricanes and tropical storms overseas to the provision of assistance to the civil authorities during severe weather in the UK. [illegible]

aged 16 to 18 who choose [illegible] judge the lifestyle is not for them or [illegible] friends and families. The armed forces continue to monitor drop-out rates and, where possible, address the causes. It is recognised that life in the services, while challenging and offering a great many opportunities, can be a demanding environment that is not right for everyone.

The recent Ofsted report, "Welfare and Duty of Care in Armed Forces Initial Training", confirms that the armed forces' work to improve their recruitment and selection procedures is being successful in reducing our trainee drop-out rates.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80061]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to the quarterly publications of Ministers' and Permanent Secretaries' meetings with external organisations (known as 'outside interest groups' under the previous Administration) that can be found at the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/

Information for the quarter April to June 2011 will be published shortly; July to September is currently being collated.

The additional information requested for each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided [illegible]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence encourages co-operation on nuclear threat reduction between the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) and a wide range of expert institutions in academia and industry, both within the UK and overseas. I understand that [illegible] enhanced co-operation between these [illegible] research field are

[illegible] or Defence [illegible] ember for [illegible] rt, column [illegible] y occasions [illegible] ilitary kit in [illegible] 09; what the [illegible] ery; and if he [illegible] [77529]

[illegible] ial couriers to [illegible] of the last five [illegible] [77530]

Peter Luff: Information on the number of times special couriers were used to deliver high priority requests and the cost per financial year is contained in the following table. The cost of each delivery is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Number of movements*	*Cost (£ million)*
2006-07	10,336	2.07
2007-08	18,094	3.65
2008-09	11,602	3.38
2009-10	14,595	2.75
2010-11	13,995	2.53

Special couriers are used only for the delivery of urgently required equipment, usually in support of operations, when delivery cannot be guaranteed by other means in the timeframe required. Although only the unit requesting the equipment is in a position to determine the urgency of a request, mechanisms are in place to challenge the validity of this if there is any doubt as to the suitability of using a special courier.

Defence: Finance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department allocated to research and development expenditure on *(a)* manned contact aircraft, *(b)* Future Surface Combatant, *(c)* next generation helicopters, *(d)* Future Infantry Soldier Technology and *(e)* military satellites in 2010-11. [79111]

Peter Luff: Ministry of Defence research and development expenditure statistics are designated National [illegible] of the figures for [illegible] ublication by the [illegible] 2012.

[illegible] ry of State for [illegible] tment's budget [illegible] rmy, *(b)* Navy [illegible] [79243]

Peter Luff: Equipment is aimed at meeting an identified capability, which may be delivered by any of the three services, and spend is, therefore, not readily categorised by service. The breakdown requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

From information published in the United Kingdom Defence Statistics at:

http://www.mod.uk

estimated MOD equipment expenditure (including capital expenditure on equipment, equipment support and research and development) as a proportion of Defence spending (outturn) since 2005 is as follows:

Financial year	*Equipment expenditure as a proportion of final outturn (%)*
2004-05	33
2005-06	33
2006-07	34
2007-08	33
2008-09	35
2009-10	33
2010-11	35

Defence: Territorial Waters

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of funding to ensure the effective protection of UK territorial waters. [79108]

Nick Harvey: I am satisfied that the Department has adequate funding to ensure the effective protection of UK territorial waters.

Cyber Taskforce

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel are assigned to his Department's cyber task force. [78599]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the previous Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 14 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 427-28W.

Marketing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many consultants were employed to work on marketing by his Department; how much was spent in total by his Department on external consultants to work on marketing; and what the salary was of each such consultant from 1 May 2010 to 1 November 2011. [79653]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 9 November 2011]:* There were no bids to engage external consultants to work on marketing in the period from June 2010 to November 2011. Prior to June 2010 there are no records held.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77589]

Mr Philip Hammond: No.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) who the duty Minister in his Department was on each day of August 2011; and what the responsibilities of the duty Minister were; [69703]

(2) which staff were employed in his deployed office and accompanied him on leave in August 2011; [69704]

(3) what hours were worked by staff on his deployed office who accompanied him on leave in August 2011; [69705]

(4) on how many occasions the Secretary of State for Defence has been accompanied by a deployed office while on leave in the last 20 years; [69706]

(5) what costs were incurred under each budget heading by his deployed office which accompanied him on leave in August 2011. [69707]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence's Duty Minister for each day in August 2011 was:

	Duty Minister
1 August	Nick Harvey MP
2 August	Nick Harvey MP
3 August	Nick Harvey MP
4 August	Nick Harvey MP
5 August	Nick Harvey MP
6 August	Nick Harvey MP
7 August	Gerald Howarth MP
8 August	Gerald Howarth MP
9 August	Gerald Howarth MP
10 August	Gerald Howarth MP
11 August	Gerald Howarth MP
12 August	Gerald Howarth MP
13 August	Gerald Howarth MP
14 August	Gerald Howarth MP
15 August	Andrew Robathan MP
16 August	Andrew Robathan MP
17 August	Andrew Robathan MP
18 August	Andrew Robathan MP
19 August	Andrew Robathan MP
20 August	Andrew Robathan MP
21 August	Peter Luff MP
22 August	Peter Luff MP
23 August	Peter Luff MP
24 August	Peter Luff MP
25 August	Peter Luff MP
26 August	Peter Luff MP
27 August	Peter Luff MP
28 August	Peter Luff MP
29 August	Nick Harvey MP
30 August	Nick Harvey MP
31 August	Nick Harvey MP

The Duty Minister may be required to deal with urgent matters when the Minister responsible is unavailable.

However, some operational issues were not delegated by my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), to the Duty Minister and arrangements were put in place for him to receive secure communications, intelligence updates and advice while overseas to allow him to take key operational decisions in relation to our mission in Libya.

He was therefore accompanied by a deployed office consisting of a member of his private office, a special adviser, and a communications (equipment) specialist.

The deployed office was run on routine business from establishment of secure communications at 0800 hrs to the completion of work in the evening each day. The team were on call, as the duty private office, at all other times. The deployed staff rotated the on-call duty and managed it together with the additional responsibility of monitoring and safeguarding the secure communications equipment. Dr Fox received regular daily updates at 1000 hrs to 1030 hrs, 1300 hrs to 1400 hrs, and 1730 hrs to 1800 hrs. Urgent issues, of which there were several, were dealt with as they arose.

The costs (rounded to £10) associated with this deployed office were:

	£
Car hire 1x14 days	1,040
3* hotel 3 rooms x 14 days	6,230
Flights x6	1,460
Subsistence	490
Miscellaneous travel costs	1,200
Office equipment	170
Secure satellite communications	8,240

Information is not held on how many occasions Defence Secretaries over the last 20 years have been accompanied by a deployed office while on holiday.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were in possession of a security pass for his main departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77884]

Mr Robathan: Information on the numbers of passes issued specifically to non Ministry of Defence staff and contractors is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of passes issued changes weekly or sometimes daily.

Visits Abroad

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of sending *(a)* officials of his Department and *(b)* special advisers to accompany him on his leave in Spain; and if he will make a statement. [69774]

Mr Philip Hammond: The costs (rounded to £10) associated with sending officials and special advisers to accompany my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), as part of his deployed office were as follows:

	£
Car hire 1x14 days	1,040
3* hotel 3 rooms x 14 days	6,230
Flights x6	1,460
Subsistence	490
Miscellaneous travel costs	1,200

	£
Office equipment	170
Secure satellite communications	8,240

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010; [79577]

(2) how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79578]

Mr Robathan: The information requested for parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day is provided in the following table.

Month due for answer	*On time*	*5 sitting days late*	*10 sitting days late*	*20 sitting days late*	*Over 30 sitting days late*
May 2010	0	0	0	0	0
June 2010	51	2	0	0	0
July 2010	40	1	1	0	0
August 2010	0	0	0	0	0
September 2010	24	0	0	0	0
October 2010	47	0	0	0	0
November 2010	73	2	0	0	0
December 2010	42	3	0	0	4
January 2011	83	0	0	0	1
February 2011	67	2	3	0	0
March 2011	60	2	1	0	0
April 2011	33	0	0	0	0
May 2011	29	0	0	0	0
June 2011	33	4	1	0	1
July 2011	40	2	1	0	0
August 2011	0	0	0	0	0
September 2011	10	2	2	0	5
October 2011	30	5	0	0	0

Between May 2010 and 31 October 2011, two parliamentary questions for ordinary written answer and one for written answer on a named day remained unanswered by the Ministry of Defence for a period of two months.

The Government are committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79579]

Mr Robathan: Draft answers to parliamentary questions are prepared by officials and are seen by special advisers before being signed off by the relevant Minister. Final answers are then taken directly to Parliament. Ministry of Defence processes ensure that it is clear to Ministers what advice is provided by officials and what is provided by special advisers.

Disclosure of Information

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 429W, on disclosure of information, if he will publish the findings of the inquiry into the unauthorised disclosure of the letter between the former Secretary of State and the Prime Minister, which appeared in *The Daily Telegraph* on 28 September 2010. [78837]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The investigation remains open. The person responsible for the leak has not yet been identified.

Ex-servicemen: Domestic Violence

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether armed services personnel receive any advice on domestic violence prior to leaving the armed services. [79936]

Mr Robathan: Domestic violence is an issue we take extremely seriously. We recently published the new Joint Services Publication 913: Tri-Service Policy on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, which is referenced in single service websites and regulations. A copy of Joint Service Publication 913 is available in the Library of the House.

The issue of domestic violence is not explicitly touched upon during resettlement courses. However, if during their resettlement briefing, any individual is identified as vulnerable, they receive additional support which may include counselling.

Once an individual has left the armed forces additional support is available from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, as well as national charities.

France: Military Alliances

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent meetings he has had with his French counterpart to discuss UK-French defence co-operation; and what his priorities are for further developing such co-operation. [79065]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have not yet met with the French Minister for Defence and Veterans' Affairs but plan to do so later this month. I expect to review the significant progress that has been made in UK-France defence co-operation since the signing of the treaties last year and to look ahead to new opportunities. I also expect to discuss the success of our close co-operation during the Libya campaign. My priorities are now to build on that success across the spectrum of bilateral defence activity including work to develop the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force, equipment and capability co-operation, optimising the use of in-service capabilities, enhanced co-operation on professional military education and aligning concepts and doctrine. We have a complex and challenging bilateral agenda to improve military interoperability that will, I believe, enhance effectiveness of capabilities on both sides in the years ahead.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effects of planned defence budget reductions in the UK and France on future defence co-operation with France. [79828]

Mr Philip Hammond: Given the current constraints on public expenditure, the UK has sought through the UK-France Defence Treaty to strengthen operational and equipment co-operation with France. It is important to obtain maximum benefit from what we do spend on Defence. The UK-France Defence and Security Treaty is a key part of our strategy to maintain and enhance the capability and interoperability of the UK and our closest European ally.

It would be premature to make judgments on the potential effect of any future reductions in the French Defence budget. That is a matter for the French Government. It is clear however that France is as committed, as the UK is, to strengthening Franco-British Defence co-operation and maintaining military capabilities against a background of constraints on public expenditure. Both sides will therefore continue actively to explore options for co-operation in both operational and equipment areas as envisaged in the UK-France Defence and Security Treaty.

IRG

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have met representatives of IRG Ltd; and when any such meetings have taken place. [77176]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 228-29W.

Israel: Joint Exercises

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on co-operation on military and security intelligence; [80462]

(2) what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on *(a)* military co-operation and *(b)* joint military training exercises. [80557]

Mr Philip Hammond: I met with my Israeli counterpart on 3 November 2011, at which meeting the discussion focused on recent events in the middle east.

Lord Astor of Hever

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions Lord Astor of Hever has visited Bahrain on Government business; and what Government business he conducted on each visit; [78705]

(2) on how many occasions Lord Astor of Hever has met any member of the Bahraini royal family while on official business. [78724]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Lord Astor of Hever has visited Bahrain twice on official business.

In December 2010, Lord Astor attended the Manama Dialogue and was present at an official meeting with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Lord Astor accompanied my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), the chief of Defence staff and Her Majesty's ambassador were also present.

In February 2011, Lord Astor travelled through Bahrain on his way back from an official visit to Afghanistan and while in Bahrain he held an official meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, accompanied by Her Majesty's ambassador.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many official meetings Lord Astor of Hever has had with Stephen Crouch. [78807]

Mr Philip Hammond: Lord Astor of Hever has had no official meetings with Stephen Crouch.

Military Bases: Chelsfield

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) *(a)* how and *(b)* by whom the value of Chelsfield Ammunition Depot was determined; [79623]

(2) whether claw-back provisions were put in place in respect of the sale of Chelsfield Ammunition Depot to safeguard the public interest in the event of any change of planning use; [79624]

(3) for what reasons *(a)* the sale of Chelsfield Ammunition Depot was not advertised locally, *(b)* no notice of the sale was posted at Chelsfield Ammunition Depot and *(c)* neighbouring residents were not informed of the sale of Chelsfield Ammunition Depot. [79625]

Mr Robathan: The value of Chelsfield Ammunition Depot was determined on the open market via bids submitted on an informal tender basis. No clawback conditions were imposed on the sale.

Chelsfield was marketed and advertised in accordance with normal procedures through GVA Grimley, the Ministry of Defence's commercial disposal agents. Anyone who had previously expressed an interest in the site was contacted directly by the Department.

It is not normal practice to notify neighbouring residents individually of any sale.

Navy

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships are currently in service; how many were in service in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [79115]

Peter Luff: Due to the difficult economic position this Government inherited, tough decisions have had to be taken to rationalise the fleet.

In 2008 the Royal Navy had 75 surface ships. The Royal Navy currently has 66 surface ships in service of the following types: Landing Platform Docks, Landing Platform Helicopters, Destroyers, Frigates, Mine Countermeasures ships, River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels, Inshore Patrol Craft and Survey Ships. In addition, the Royal Navy has 11 submarines in service (Ballistic and fleet).

The work done in the SDSR concluded that, despite these reductions, the Royal Navy retained sufficient assets to undertake the tasks required of it, as shown by the success of our operations in Libya.

Somalia: Piracy

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Royal Navy is taking to tackle piracy off the Horn of Africa. [80074]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Central Devon (Mel Stride).

Sri Lanka

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the right hon. Member for North Somerset's meeting with the Sri Lanka Development Trust in Sri Lanka formed part of the official itinerary for his visit to that country. [78812]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Ministry of Defence has no record of such a meeting and the official programme did not include a meeting with the Sri Lankan Development Trust.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to answer question 69774 on his leave in Spain, tabled on 11 August 2011 for answer on 6 September 2011. [74968]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* I replied to the hon. Member today.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Schools: Polling Stations

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many schools are used as polling stations in England. [73913]

Mr Streeter: The location of polling stations is the responsibility of individual local authorities, not the Electoral Commission, and therefore this information is not held centrally.

The Commission has recommended that Returning Officers should have the power to use any publicly owned building as a polling place. This would allow the Returning Officer a greater selection of locations for polling places, which should improve accessibility.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Attorney-General whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in the Law Officers' Departments have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80066]

The Attorney-General: Details of meetings attended by Ministers and Directors with outside interest groups are published quarterly on departmental websites for the Attorney-General's Office, Crown Prosecution Service and Treasury Solicitor's Department.

I can confirm that no meetings have taken place between Bell Pottinger Group and the organisations mentioned above.

The Serious Fraud Office and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) do not currently publish details of such meetings.

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office met with Peter Bingle, the Chairman of Bell Pottinger Public Affairs on 8 September 2009. HMCPSI have had no such meetings.

Courts: Victims

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Attorney-General in what proportion of court cases in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England the Crown Prosecution Service has ensured the presentation of victim impact statements in the latest period for which figures are available. [80816]

The Attorney-General: The decision about whether to make a victim personal statement (VPS), formally known as a victim impact statement, is made by the victim. Where a VPS is made it forms part of the prosecution case file. In order to obtain precise figures, each case file would need to be examined and this could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in the Law Officers' Departments; and if he will make a statement. [77504]

The Attorney-General: The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has not given any consultancy staff full-time equivalent status. Any consultancy work is paid for purely on a task basis and it is for the consultancy firm to determine the appropriate number of their staff required to deliver the task. There are two consultants working in the SFO on this basis.

There are no staff currently employed on consultancy contracts by the remaining Law Officers' Departments although the Treasury Solicitors' Department does have one contract that allows for a maximum of 20 days consultancy service to be called upon if required.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80055]

The Deputy Prime Minister: A list of my official meetings with external organisations is published quarterly and can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Further detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Credit: Foreign Nationals

Steve Brine: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect on foreign nationals' personal credit ratings of their inability to join the electoral register. [79838]

Mr Harper: In order to be eligible to register to vote in UK elections and referendums you must have reached the appropriate age and be a British, Irish, EU or qualifying Commonwealth citizen. Qualifying Commonwealth citizens are those who have leave to enter or remain in the UK, or do not require such leave. All other foreign nationals are ineligible.

Credit reference agencies (CRAs) are entitled to use the full electoral register to vet applications for credit.

The information held by CRAs in a consumer's credit reference file enables lenders to assess whether an individual has the ability to repay any credit that is offered. The information in the electoral register forms part of the information on a consumer's credit reference file. In circumstances where a prospective borrower has a 'thin' file, for example because he or she is relatively new to credit or is not on the electoral register, then banks may not have sufficient information to make an informed assessment of risk and may therefore decline the credit.

The Government do not interfere in individual lending decisions. It remains for individual lenders to make their own lending decisions regarding those to whom they lend.

The Government do not hold data on the number of foreign nationals denied credit.

Duchy of Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the policy of the Government is on the *(a)* rights, *(b)* powers and *(c)* interests of (i) the Earl of Chester and (ii) the Duchy of Cornwall. [79968]

Mr Harper: The Prince of Wales is currently the Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Chester with the rights, powers and interests set out in the charters and letters of patent which originally created these titles.

Andrew George: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Duchy of Cornwall is a public body for the purposes of Government legislation. [79972]

Mr Harper: The Duchy of Cornwall is a private estate that funds the public, charitable and private activities of the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

Duchy of Cornwall: Freedom of Information

Andrew George: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what information he holds on the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which apply to the Duchy of Cornwall. [80489]

Mr Harper: The Duchy of Cornwall is not listed in schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. No provisions in that Act apply to the Duchy.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether *(a)* he, *(b)* another Minister in his Department and *(c)* a special adviser in his Department has met, discussed or corresponded on changes to electoral registration laws with a think tank based in (i) the USA, (ii) the UK and (iii) elsewhere. [80530]

Mr Harper: Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Information for 1 April to 30 June 2011 will be published shortly.

We have no record of a Cabinet Office Minister or special adviser, during this Administration, meeting or corresponding with a think tank on the Government's proposals to implement individual electoral registration in Great Britain.

Parliamentary Scrutiny

Natascha Engel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff of his Office will be working on *(a)* the introduction of a public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* the introduction of a public reading day within a Bill's committee stage. [41654]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 740W, by the Leader of the House of Commons, my right hon. Friend the Member for North West Hampshire (Sir George Young).

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are *(a)* part-time, *(b)* full-time, *(c)* male, *(d)* female, *(e)* active members and *(f)* deferred members/pensioners. [80502]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 677W.

Civil Servants: Redundancy

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the level of redundancy costs arising from civil service staff who left the civil service in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much he expects to spend on redundancy costs in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15. [76278]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Individual Departments and agencies are responsible for making civil servants redundant, and the information requested is not currently recorded centrally in its entirety. However, the total amount of lump sums payable each year from the Civil Service Compensation Scheme in respect of early exits is recorded in the Notes to the Resource Accounts for Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation (which are available in the Library once published). Furthermore, Departments are reporting information about the numbers and costs of their redundancies and other early exits in their resource accounts with effect from 2010-11.

Cabinet Office is currently working with Departments to understand their future work force plans and projections. Information on finalised estimates for future years is not yet available but will be released in due course.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75648]

Mr Maude: The total cost for advertising job vacancies in Cabinet Office since May 2010 is £5,823. In each financial year two campaigns have been run, details as follows.

2010-11

Number of posts	*Publication*	*Date*	*Cost (£)*
7	www.guardian.co.uk	1 December 2010	812
1	www.guardian.co.uk	4 March 2011	829
1	www.exec-appointments.com	7 April 2011	2,167
3	www.guardian.co.uk	15 August 2011	2,015

On 25 May 2010 the Government announced a recruitment freeze on all external recruitment with some exceptions in order not to prejudice the delivery of business. These four campaigns are such exceptions.

Recruitment expenditure over the last five years demonstrates a reduction in overall costs following a move to on-line advertising rather than print. Recruitment costs for past five financial years as follows:

	Print cost (£)	*On-line cost (£)*	*Number of campaigns*	*Average cost (£)*
2011-12	0	4,182	2	2,091
2010-11	0	1,641	2	821
2009-10	7,230	3,198	2	5,214
2008-09	147,128	41,791	33	5,725
2007-08	77,044	2,043	19	4,162

Travel: Costs

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75525]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010, the Cabinet Office has spent the following amounts on first class travel:

(a) Air: £0

(b) Boat: £0

(c) Rail: £59,844.

Of the above, our records show that £1,130.46 was spent on first class travel by Cabinet Office Ministers.

Divorce

Jim Shannon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) between 18 and 30, (ii) between 31 and 40, (iii) between 41 and 50, (iv) between 51 and 60 and (v) over 60 years old were divorced in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [80393]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women aged (i) between 18 and 30, (ii) between 31 and 40, (iii) between 41 and 50, (iv) between 51 and 60 and (v) over 60 years old were divorced in England and Wales in each of the last three years. (80393)

The tables show the number of divorces recorded between 2007 and 2009, the latest year for which figures are available, by age at divorce. The term divorce includes both dissolutions and annulments of marriage.

Table 1: Numbers of men divorcing: age at divorce, England and Wales, 2007-09

	Age at divorce						
	All ages	*18 to 30*	*31 to 40*	*41 to 50*	*51 to 60*	*61 and over*	*Age not stated*
2009	113,949	10,381	37,003	40,369	18,904	7,285	7
2008	121,708	11,007	39,998	43,001	20,239	7,455	8
2007	128,131	11,642	43,509	44,782	21,128	7,063	7

Table 2: Numbers of women divorcing: age at divorce, England and Wales, 2007-09

	Age at divorce						
	All ages	*18 to 30*	*31 to 40*	*41 to 50*	*51 to 60*	*61 and over*	*Age not stated*
2009	113,949	17,577	39,683	38,069	14,389	4,222	7
2008	121,708	18,627	42,971	40,387	15,519	4,196	8
2007	128,131	19,243	47,274	41,865	15,765	3,977	7

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Duchy of Lancaster: Estate Agents

Mr Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what fees the Duchy of Lancaster has paid to *(a)* Smiths Gore and *(b)* other land agents since 2005. [78230]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The following table shows the fees paid to the managing agents on the rural estates. These figures relate to all aspects of professional advice as well as the day-to-day management of the individual properties. In 2008-09 the management of the Needwood Survey, Staffordshire was transferred from Fisher German to Savills.

				£
	Fisher German	*Savills*	*Smiths Gore*	*Total (net)*
2004-05	397,003	—	138,128	535,131
2005-06	465,731	—	231,045	696,776
2006-07	330,827	—	594,591	925,418
2007-08	258,434	—	666,700	925,134
2008-09	206,466	100,014	675,573	982,053
2009-10	—	212,887	769,711	982,598
2010-11	—	208,082	834,648	1,042,730

Duchy of Lancaster: Farms

Mr Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what farms and agricultural land are held by the Duchy of Lancaster. [78231]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The Duchy of Lancaster owns approximately 30,000 acres of agricultural land across England and Wales with a total of 100 farmsteads. The division of its holdings is scheduled as follows:

	Acres	*Hectares*
Cheshire	3,097.06	1,253.36
Derbyshire	260.80	105.54
Glamorgan	68.23	27.61
Leicestershire	9.27	3.75
Lincolnshire	1,027.94	416.00
Northamptonshire	1,893.82	766.42
Shropshire	—	—
Lancashire	9,717.70	3,932.70
Staffordshire	5,810.52	2,351.49
Yorkshire	8,291.81	3,355.65
Total	30,177.15	12,212.52

Mr Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which farms and agricultural holdings the Duchy of Lancaster disposed of in each year since 2005. [78232]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Sales of farms and agricultural land are scheduled as follows:

2010-11

Marbury—Hadley Hall Farm

Lincolnshire—Midville Farmhouse and buildings

Lincolnshire—Midville Farm land

2009-10

Salwick—Land at Gracemire Farm (0.37 acres)

2008-09

Marbury—Hollyhurst Farm

Marbury—Hollyhurst Farm paddock

2007-08

Crewe—Radway Green paddock

Salwick—0.16 ha land at Fir Trees Farm

Crewe—0.03 ha land at Bank Top Farm

2006-07

Marbury—Townley Farmhouse and land

Needwood—buildings Stubby Lane/Woodhouse Farm

Salwick—0.18 ha. Fir Trees Farm (Manyviews, Lea Lane)

2005-06

Marbury—Hurst Hall Farm plus land ex-Townley Farm

Strixton—release retention, land ex Old Lodge Farm

Needwood—land adjacent Forest Farmhouse

2004-05

Winmarleigh—Crawley Cross Farm

Marishes—Riggs Farmhouse land and buildings

Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will establish a Committee on the Natural Environment to advise and monitor all Government policy in terms of its impact on the natural environment. [80448]

Mr Letwin: As Minister for Government Policy, I have been asked to respond. The Home and Economic Affairs Committees consider the vast majority of all of Government policy. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), and I sit on both committees. This allows consideration of natural environment issues at the time of policy development at committee level.

Also, DEFRA is taking lead responsibility for reviewing departmental business plans in relation to sustainable development principles. We will then hold Departments to account through the quarterly business plan review process.

Government Contracts: Deloitte

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts the Government has awarded to *(a)* Deloitte and *(b)* associates of Deloitte since May 2010. [78335]

Mr Maude: Last year, the Government saved £870 million by cutting departmental spend on consulting.

Since January 2011, as part of the Government's programme to increase transparency, central Government Departments have been required to publish on Contracts Finder information on the contracts they award. The following table summarises contracts that are listed on Contract Finder. Further information is held by individual Departments.

Supplier	*Procuring authority*	*Contract*
Ingeus Deloitte	Department for Work and Pensions	Work programme—CPA8 Scotland—Ingeus Deloitte
Ingeus Deloitte	Department for Work and Pensions	English Work programme—CPA16 West Yorkshire—Ingeus Deloitte
Ingeus Deloitte	Department for Work and Pensions	Work programme—CPA5 North East—Ingeus Deloitte
Ingeus Deloitte	Department for Work and Pensions	Work programme—CPA1 East of England—Ingeus Deloitte
Ingeus Deloitte	Department for Work and Pensions	Work programme—CPA3 West London—Ingeus Deloitte
Ingeus Deloitte	Department for Work and Pensions	Work programme—CPA2 East Midlands—Ingeus Deloitte
Ingeus Deloitte	Department for Work and Pensions	Work programme—CPA6 North West—Merseyside, Halton, Cumbria and Lancashire—Ingeus Deloitte
Deloitte LLP	Northern Ireland Audit Office	Financial auditing services
Deloitte LLP	Skills Funding Agency	Cloud Readiness
Deloitte	Humber NHS Foundation Trust	Auditing services
Deloitte LLP	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	Internal audit services
Deloitte LLP	Fabrick Housing Group	Auditing services
Deloitte LLP	One Vision Housing Ltd	Auditing services
Deloitte	National Audit Office	Accounting and auditing services
Deloitte MCS Ltd	Doncaster metropolitan borough council	Business and management consultancy and related services
Deloitte LLP (local authorities)	Audit Scotland	Statutory audit services
Deloitte LLP (health bodies)	Audit Scotland	Statutory audit services
Deloitte LLP	Coventry city council	Financial consultancy services
Deloitte LLP	University of Leeds	Statutory audit services
Deloitte and Touche Public Sector Internal Audit Ltd	North Devon district council	Internal audit services
Deloitte	Herefordshire council	Auditing services
Drivers Jonas Deloitte	NHS Shared Business Services Ltd	Property management services of real estate on a fee or contract basis
Deloitte LLP	The Pensions Regulator	Pension services
Deloitte LLP	The Pensions Regulator	Business and management consultancy and related services
Deloitte LLP	Buying Solutions	Computer-related professional services
Deloitte LLP	Buying Solutions	Computer-related professional services
Deloitte LLP	Buying Solutions	Computer-related professional services
Deloitte LLP	Buying Solutions	Computer-related professional services
Drivers Jonas Deloitte	Swan Housing Association Ltd	Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services

Natural Resources

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office from what date the Office for National Statistics plans to include natural capital in the UK Environmental Accounts. [80444]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking from what date ONS plans to include natural capital in the UK Environmental Accounts. (80444).

The timetable is set out in the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)[1] which was published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 7 June 2011 with the following commitments:

'The new measures of national wellbeing which are in development will reflect our dependency on the natural environment for the quality of our lives.'

'We will put natural capital at the heart of Government accounting. We will work with the Office for National Statistics to fully include natural capital in the UK Environmental Accounts, with early changes by 2013. In 2012 we will publish a roadmap for further improvements up to 2020.'

The Office for National Statistics is leading on the delivery of these measurement commitments through our Measuring National Wellbeing[2] programme. The 2012 roadmap will detail the timetable for inclusion of natural capital within the UK Environmental Accounts, a satellite account to the UK National Accounts. ONS will be seeking to engage with a broad range of experts and potential users in the development of the roadmap. The exact date for its publication in 2012 has not yet been agreed but the publication date will be pre-announced in line with the National Statistics Code of Practice.

This question was previously answered in Hansard 69449.

[1] *Note:*

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/

[2] *Note:*

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/well-being/index.html

Skin Cancer

Julie Elliott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the incidence of malignant melanoma is in each age group in the UK. [80103]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the incidence of malignant melanoma is in each age group in the UK. [80103]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma (incidence) are for the year 2009. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The table included in this answer provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of melanoma skin cancer in the UK by age group in 2009.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/cancer-statistics-registrations--england--series-mb1-/no--40--2009/index.html

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma, by age group, persons, UK, 2009[1, 2, 3]

Age group	*Cancer Registrations 2009*
<1	0
1-4	0
5-9	0
10-14	9
15-19	52
20-24	148
25-29	287
30-34	438
35-39	590
40-44	884
45-49	909
50-54	869
55-59	995
60-64	1,465
65-69	1,249
70-74	1,205
75-79	1,088
80-84	847
85+	845

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma, by age group, persons, UK, 2009[1, 2, 3]

[1] Malignant melanoma is coded as C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth revision (ICD-10).

[2] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

[3] Figures include data provided by the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit, the Scottish Cancer Registry and the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry.

Unemployment: Females

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many women were unemployed in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [80427]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many women were unemployed in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. (80427)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately, the sample size does not support the requested analyses of female unemployment in the Ashfield constituency and Nottinghamshire.

As an alternative, in Table 1, we have provided the number of women receiving Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) resident in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England in (i) September 2010 and (ii) September 2011, which is the latest period for which data are available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of women resident in (a) Ashfield, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England claiming jobseeker's allowance in September 2010 and September 2011

	September 2010	*September 2011*
Ashfield	675	894
Nottinghamshire	4,244	5,670
England	365,664	450,198

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Well-being

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding his Department has allocated to the development of the Government's happiness index. [79797]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 10 November 2011]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, how much funding the Cabinet Office has allocated to the development of the Government's Happiness Index (79797).

The National Statistician is responsible for the development of new measures of national well-being. The 2010 Spending Review settlement provides £2m per year between 2011/12 and 2014/15 for this work, as part of overall ONS funding. This funding covers the whole Measuring National Well-being Programme, including our survey questions on happiness and other aspects of individual well-being, development work on subjective and objective measures, and public consultation.

The concept of national well-being is about addressing the question "how's the UK doing these days?" National well-being is more than the sum of individual happiness or individual well-being. To measure national well-being we are also capturing other subjective dimensions, such as satisfaction with life and purpose and meaning in life, as well as more objective measures such as unemployment, life expectancy, education levels, and crime. In addition, we are drawing on, and developing, the national economic accounts and the UK environmental accounts.

Further details of the ONS programme, including our current consultation on the domains and headline indicators of national well-being, can be found on the ONS website:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/well-being/index.html

EDUCATION

Adoption

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how long on average a child spent in a prospective adoptive placement before an adoption order was granted in England in each of the last five years. [78556]

Tim Loughton: Information on the average time a child spent in an adoptive placement before an adoption order was granted in England in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

Looked-after children who were adopted during the year by the average time between being placed for adoption and being adopted[1,2], years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011, coverage: England

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
All looked-after children who were adopted during the year ending 31 March (number)	3,330	3,180	3,330	3,200	3,050
Children who were adopted and previously placed for adoption[3] (number)	3,330	3,150	3,280	3,190	3,030
Average time between the child being placed for adoption and the granting of an adoption order (months)[3]	11	10	10	10	10

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. Averages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[3] Children have been excluded from the calculation of the average time from placement to adoption where they were adopted by their foster carers but not placed with them for adoption by the local authority.

Source:
SSDA 903.

Carers: Grandparents

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward legislation to increase the rights of grandparents to *(a)* have access to and *(b)* bring up their grandchildren; and if he will make a statement. [78672]

Tim Loughton: The Government recognise that grandparents can play a very important role in children's lives. We will be considering how best to support relationships between grandparents and their grandchildren, where families separate, in the light of the Family Justice Review panel's final report, published on 3 November. The report highlights the importance to children of relationships with their grandparents.

Legislation already exists which enables a looked after child to be placed with his or her grandparents. Subject to the child's welfare being met, and arrangements being reasonably practicable, a local authority must first seek to place the child with a person who is: a parent; a person with parental responsibility for the child; or a person in whose favour a residence order has been made. If this is not possible, the local authority must place the child with

> "an individual who is a relative, friend or other person connected [with the child] and who is also a local authority foster parent".

This includes grandparents.

Departmental Billing

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74339]

Tim Loughton: In the period in question the percentage of valid invoices paid on behalf of the Department for Education within 10 days of receipt was:

	Percentage invoices paid within 10 days
July 2010	94.24
August 2010	94.30

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78873]

Tim Loughton: This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on freedom of information requests which can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

and copies are available in the House Libraries. Information for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2011 is not yet available. Statistics on the time taken to respond to cases over 20 working days in 2011 will be published in the annual report.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78875]

Tim Loughton: Departmental officials would normally determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

However, the exemption to disclosure under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) can be used only if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person that the exemption applies. In relation to information held by government, the qualified person must be a Minister. In the Department, one Minister has lead responsibility for freedom of information and considers the use of section 36 unless the subject matter lies within his ministerial responsibilities, in which case any other Minister acts as the qualified person.

Head Teachers: Recruitment

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to prevent underperforming head teachers from moving between schools. [78239]

Mr Gibb: It is the responsibility of employers to decide who they appoint. They should make recruitment decisions based on all the available information, including taking up references when considering their suitability for the post.

Home Education: Vetting

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to strengthen *(a)* criminal records and *(b)* other checks in relation to the employment of home tutors. [80234]

Tim Loughton: If a tutor is supplied by an agency, the agency can already require a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check on the tutor. In addition, a parent will be able to undertake a barred list check on a private tutor, under changes we are proposing to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Translation Services

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to maintain quality standards under the new system for the delivery of interpreter and translation services across the criminal justice system. [80491]

Mr Blunt: The Framework Agreement we have signed is clear about the quality standards that are expected, including qualifications, experience and vetting. It requires the collection of detailed and meaningful management information, uses comprehensive key performance indicators, and will be properly managed.

There is an additional requirement for all face-to-face foreign language interpreters to undertake an assessment of ability. All interpreters will be required to undertake continuous professional development and abide by a comprehensive code of conduct which further emphasises that they should only undertake assignments which they are competent to undertake.

This, and the other requirements under the framework, will ensure that the justice sector continues to have access to interpreters of the appropriate quality.

Applied Language Solutions

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment his Department has made of the compliance of Applied Language Solutions with Principle 8 of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998 in respect of storage of translators' personal details and communication of information relating to the investigation of criminal offences; and if he will make a statement; [79711]

(2) whether Applied Language Solutions has a *(a)* data centre and *(b)* call centre in India; [79712]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's contract with Applied Language Solutions; [79713]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* use of mezzanine funding, *(b)* creditors amounts falling due within one year and *(c)* general financial

viability of Applied Language Solutions prior to awarding it a contract for translation services; and if he will make a statement. [79714]

Mr Blunt: Applied Learning Solutions (ALS) were assessed to ensure compliance with data protection regulations during the pre-qualification stage of the competition. All ALS offices, wherever their location, meet the requirements of data protection. Schedule 4 of the DPA is explicit that Principle 8 does not apply when "The data subject has given his consent to the transfer". The terms and conditions of registration as a linguist with Applied Language Solutions (ALS) provide for positive consent to personal data being shared across ALS's offices, irrespective of location, and this is explicitly stated. Any linguist who agrees to these terms and conditions has given permission for their details to be shared outside of the EEA.

Applied Language Solutions do have a data centre and call centre in India.

A redacted copy of the framework agreement is available in the public domain on the Business Link Contracts Finder website at the following address:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/Common/View%20Notice.aspx?site_=1000&lang=en&noticeid=264052&fs=true

The Ministry of Justice assesses the use of mezzanine funding dependent upon circumstances. In the case of ALS it was considered that their funding and financial position was and remains consistent with a striving, young company which, with appropriate financial aid provided by the mezzanine funding mechanism, is able to provide innovative and technical solutions. The assessment of creditors falling due within one year is nil. The general financial assessment of the company was considered during the pre-qualification stage of the tender process. This involved looking at available financial and other information and was entirely in keeping with usual practice.

Approved Premises: Per Capita Costs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost of a place in approved premises in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [79251]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 678W. The allocation of funding is based on the same formula irrespective of location.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has issued any further guidance to BASS on the operation of accommodation beyond its original contract with his Department. [80817]

Mr Blunt: Operational guidance on the bail accommodation and support service (BASS) is provided in Prison Service Instruction 34/2010 and Probation Instruction 09/2010 effective from the start of the contract with Stonham on 18 June 2010. Further guidance has not been issued.

I have received no representations.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80051]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice publishes hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers and details of ministerial meetings with external organisations. These are published on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/index.htm

The latest data have been sent to the Cabinet Office and are awaiting publication. Relevant information will be included on these returns.

The Ministry of Justice does not centrally record meetings attended by all officials in the Department, To collate the remaining information for the time period stated would exceed the cost limit for answering parliamentary questions.

Chief Coroner

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the benefits of appointing a chief coroner. [80111]

Mr Djanogly: An impact assessment for Part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 was published by the Ministry of Justice in January 2009. This summarised the full costs and benefits of implementing the coroner provisions in the Act. The Government have considered this and have determined that no further assessment is required.

Coroners

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to coroners on the sale by them of coroners' recovery services to funeral directors. [80970]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), has responsibility for coroner policy and legislation but no operational responsibility for the coroner service. Coroners are independent judicial office holders who are appointed and funded by their local authorities.

All decisions in relation to funding for the running of the coroner service, including those on the commissioning of funeral directors for body transportation of deaths reported to coroners, are solely for coroners and their local authorities.

Cremation

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking in respect of the disposal of cremated remains held by undertakers without instructions. [80969]

Mr Djanogly: The Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008 only make provision for the disposal of cremated remains by cremation authorities if they are not claimed by the applicant for cremation or there are no instructions for disposal. They do not make provision for how funeral directors can dispose of cremated remains that are retained by them as there is no power to regulate funeral directors in cremation legislation. There are also no plans to bring forward legislation to this effect.

Funeral directors should only take cremated human remains from the cremation authority on the understanding that they are to be passed on to the applicant for cremation at the earliest opportunity. If, for some reason, the funeral director cannot contact the applicant for cremation, or the applicant for cremation no longer wants the cremated remains, he/she should seek their own legal advice on the disposal of the cremated remains.

The Government understand that the National Association of Funeral Directors is considering issuing guidance to its members on this matter.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether his Department has plans to extend the choice available to the public on how they are buried or cremated; [80978]

(2) whether he has any plans to consult on the use of alkaline hydrolysis in relation to body disposal. [80979]

Mr Djanogly: Alkaline hydrolysis and other alternatives to cremation (such as Promession™ and Cryomation®) do not involve the burning of human remains and so fall outside the regulatory framework as provided in the Cremation Act 1902 and the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008. They are therefore neither prohibited nor permitted by law but their use would need to comply with local planning, health and safety and environmental legislation.

Primary legislation would be required to give the power for Government to regulate alternatives to cremation in England and Wales. There are no plans to introduce or amend the law at present. The Ministry of Justice has no plans at present to consult on the introduction of alternatives to cremation in England and Wales but may revisit this position in due course.

Criminal Proceedings: Translation Services

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what criteria will be used to decide in which tier interpreter and translation will be placed under the new system for delivery of interpreters and translators services in the criminal justice system; [80493]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* hourly, *(b)* daily rate of pay for interpreter and translators within (i) tier 1, (ii) tier 2 and (iii) tier 3 of the new system for delivery of interpreters and translators services in the criminal justice system; [80494]

(3) whether he expects the number of interpreters and translators on the National Register of Public Service Interpreters to increase following changes to the system for delivery of interpreters and translators services in the criminal justice system; [80495]

(4) when he expects to withdraw from the national agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language service professionals in investigations and proceedings within the criminal justice system. [80496]

Mr Blunt: Under the new system, assignment into tiers for foreign language interpreters is dependent on a range of criteria including the qualifications and experience possessed by the individual and their assessment centre performance. I understand that Middlesex university will carry out those assessments independent of the Ministry of Justice and the supplier, using marking criteria which assesses an interpreter's coherence, accuracy, fluency and ability to convey the speaker's intended effect. There is no tiering for translators.

Rates of pay are a matter between the supplier and individual linguist. However I understand the hourly rate of pay for foreign language interpreters to be £22 for Tier 1, £20 for Tier 2 and £16 for Tier 3. Travel allowances may be payable with the agreement of the supplier. Translators will continue to be paid by the word, as they are at present.

It is a matter for individual interpreters and translators as to whether they wish to register with the National Register of Public Service Interpreters. This register is entirely independent of Government. However, ensuring interpretation and translation is of the appropriate quality and widening the available pool of interpreters are fundamental elements of this reform, and have always been so. Under the Framework Agreement the supplier will be required to increase the numbers of appropriately qualified interpreters available for use by the justice sector generally, but particularly in relation to those languages and areas of the country where coverage is currently insufficient to meet operational needs. They will also be required to plan for future language demand. This will ensure that we have interpreters in the languages we need, in the areas we need them. There are no current concerns about the number of available translators.

A move to the Framework Agreement will probably render the National Agreement redundant and we expect to withdraw it in due course, but a date has not been fixed. In the short-term, parts of the National Agreement will be disapplied to organisations with contracts under the MOJ Framework Agreement.

Dangerous Dogs: Prosecutions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions have been brought under the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each of the last five years; and what the estimated cost to the public purse was of such prosecutions in each such year. [81042]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales for the years 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Information on the estimated cost to the public purse for prosecutions on individual offences is not collated centrally.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales 2006-10[1,2]

	Proceeded against				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*[3]	*2009*	*2010*
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991	1,077	1,193	1,247	1,254	1,705

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Family Courts

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he proposes to publish a response to the Family Justice Review published by David Norgrove. [80278]

Mr Djanogly: The Government welcome the publication of the Family Justice Review.

We recognise the serious concerns about the family justice system highlighted in the review. We have already announced our intention to introduce a six-month time limit in care proceedings, as part of a package of reform to tackle delays in these cases.

We intend to respond promptly to the review's final report, but we need to give their detailed recommendations the full consideration they deserve. We will therefore respond as soon as possible.

HM Courts and Tribunals Service

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average annual cost to the HM Courts and Tribunals Service of cases involving litigants in person; and if he will make a statement. [78703]

Mr Djanogly: HMCTS holds information relating to the percentage of litigants in person for family business and civil trials heard in the county courts and the number of Crown court sitting days relating to cases for which at least one of the defendants was unrepresented for some part of the duration of the case.

We do not hold information in sufficient detail for litigants in person for the tribunals service, pre-trial civil business, litigants in person for magistrates courts cases, or High Court and Appeal Court cases involving litigants in person.

Therefore, for those areas where data are held, the estimated cost to HMCTS for litigants in person in 2010-11 was around £137 million. This comprises £125 million for family business in the county court; £10 million for civil trials and £2 million for the cost of cases in the Crown court.

Immigrants: Families

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the application of Article 8 of the European Court of Human Rights by courts and tribunals in immigration and deportation matters; and if he will introduce legislation to reverse the effects of the decision of the House of Lords in Huang [2007] UKHL 11. [80564]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In the Home Office's recent consultation on family migration, the Home Secretary sought views on how a proper balance should be struck between the individual's right to respect for a private and family life and the wider public interest in protecting the public and controlling immigration. On 4 October the Home Secretary made clear her intention to revise the Immigration Rules to reinforce the public interest, in relation to cases engaging Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, in respect of foreign nationals convicted of a criminal offence or who have breached our immigration laws being removed from the UK.

The Government have no current plans for legislation in relation to the House of Lords decision in Huang.

Legal Aid Scheme: Prisoners

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the total legal aid funding was for 2010-11 for prisoners currently serving indeterminate sentences in England and Wales for proceedings in the family courts relating to *(a)* custody of children, *(b)* adoption of children, *(c)* contact with children and *(d)* parental responsibility; [79813]

(2) what the total legal aid funding was for 2010-11 for prisoners currently serving sentences in England and Wales for sexual offences against adults for proceedings in the family courts relating to *(a)* custody of children, *(b)* adoption of children, *(c)* contact with children and *(d)* parental responsibility. [79814]

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much legal aid funding was given to prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences against children for proceedings in the family courts relating to *(a)* custody of children, *(b)* adoption of children, *(c)* contact with children and *(d)* parental responsibility in England and Wales in 2010-11; [79909]

(2) how much legal aid funding was given to prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for proceedings in the family courts relating to *(a)* custody of children, *(b)* adoption of children, *(c)* contact with children and *(d)* parental responsibility in England and Wales in 2010-11; [79940]

(3) how much legal aid funding was given to prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences against adults for proceedings in the family courts relating to *(a)* custody of children, *(b)* adoption of children, *(c)* contact with children and *(d)* parental responsibility in England and Wales in 2010-11. [79947]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not available; the Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not centrally record whether or not an applicant for legal aid is serving a prison sentence.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish a revised impact assessment for Part 3 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. [80428]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice published individual impact assessments as the new Government amendments were tabled at Committee and Report in the House of Commons relating to Part 3 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. These can be viewed on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/bills-and-acts/bills/legal-aid-and-sentencing-bill.htm

A revised impact assessment for Part 3 of the Bill is expected to be published in the week commencing 14 November 2011.

Offensive Weapons: Offences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the highest number of previous convictions for possession of a bladed article was for an individual convicted of such an offence without being sent to prison in each of the last three years; and how many offences that individual had committed in total at the point of sentence for this offence. [73939]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the highest number of previous convictions for possession of an article with a blade or point, for individuals convicted of this offence in the years 2008 to 2010 who received a sentence other than immediate custody. It also shows their total number of previous cautions and convictions. Although these individuals did not go to prison for their index offence, they have all previously been to prison for the same offence. The figures for 2008 and 2010 refer to the same individual.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Highest number of previous convictions for having an article with a blade or point, when convicted of this offence in England and Wales in the years 2008-10, and not going to prison

	Number of previous offences		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Previous convictions for having an article with a blade or a point in a public place or on school premises	12	12	15
Previous cautions and convictions for any offence at time of conviction	30	68	41
Previous immediate custodial sentences	5	36	9

Pensions: Misrepresentation

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has put in place any arrangements with EMC Advisory Services Ltd to provide advice to people who have been mis-sold endowment policies; and if he will make a statement. [79707]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the direct regulation of claims management services and I can confirm that EMC Advisory Services Ltd (EMC) has been a regulated claims management company since 23 February 2007. EMC is authorised to provide regulated claims services in the financial products and services sector, which includes mis-sold endowment policies. Authorisation is not, however, an endorsement by the Ministry of Justice and there are no other arrangements in place with EMC.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many former soldiers are resident in HMP *(a)* Durham, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Preston and *(d)* Lancaster. [79971]

Mr Blunt: Details of whether prisoners have previously served in the army is not routinely collated by the Ministry of Justice. A breakdown of the numbers of Army veterans by individual establishment could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by collecting information held on individuals on local data systems, validating it against MOD records, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

A snapshot of the number of regular veterans of the armed forces in prison nationally was collated and published by the MOD's Defence Analytical Services Advice (DASA) in September 2010.

Sark

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to support an application from the Isle of Sark to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) for listing in ISO 3166. [79728]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice would consider a formal application from Sark to approach the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) for listing in ISO 3166, should the Sark authorities wish to make one.

Sexual Offences: Crime Prevention

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to provide support for circles of accountability and support to extend their operations to reduce sex offending. [80399]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Ministry of Justice support the circles of support and accountability (COSA) by means of a grant to Circles UK. Using that grant, Circles UK supports the development of new COSAs in England and Wales. Circles UK also sets and maintains standards by quality assuring existing COSA projects. NOMS will continue to fund Circles UK through 2012-13.

COSAs are commissioned at a local level by probation trusts and other criminal justice agencies. The number of COSAs in England and Wales affiliated to Circles UK increased from 65 in September 2010 to 71 in September 2011.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the funding settlement between his Department and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for the three years from 31 March 2012 has been determined. [80254]

Maria Miller: Funding settlements have been agreed up to and including 31 March 2012; the settlement for the following three years will be determined at the appropriate time.

Child Support Agency

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of cases within the live and assessed caseload of the Child Support Agency are between one and three years old; [79647]

(2) how many and what proportion of live and assessed cases of the Child Support Agency are cases *(a)* between three and five, *(b)* between five and 10, *(c)* between 10 and 15 and *(d)* over 15 years old. [79648]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of cases within the live and assessed caseload of the Child Support Agency are between one and three years old. [79647]; and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of live and assessed cases of the Child Support Agency are cases (a) between three and five, (b) between five and 10, (c) between 10 and 15 and (d) over 15 years old. [79648]

The table below shows the age of live and assessed cases as at the end of June 2011 measured from the application start date of the case.

Age of case	*Number of cases*	*Proportion of cases (Percentage)*
Under 1 year	79,500	7
1 to 3 years	137,900	12
3 to 5 years	181,000	16
5 to 10 years	343,600	30
10 to 15 years	255,000	22
Over 15 years	140,900	12
Unknown	5,600	0

Notes:

1. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures include cases administered off the main computer system.
3. The live and assessed caseload includes open cases with an ongoing child maintenance liability, cases which have been assessed as nil-liability and cases where arrears of maintenance have been requested.
4. The application start date is based on the date when a customer first made contact with the Child Support Agency.
5. The age of cases administered off the main computer system are measured from application start date of the case as recorded on CS2 computer system prior to the case being progressed off-system.
6. Cases with an unknown age are cases administered off-system which do not have an application start date recorded on the CS2 computer system.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Crisis Loans

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many defaults there were in repayment of social fund crisis loans in each of the last 12 months. [80343]

Steve Webb: The number of crisis loan write-offs in the 2010-11 financial year was as follows:

	Number
April 2010	442
May 2010	304
June 2010	261
July 2010	874
August 2010	323
September 2010	444
October 2010	917
November 2010	416
December 2010	523
January 2011	471
February 2011	465
March 2011	1,907
Total	7,347

Data have been included for the financial year 2010-11, the latest year for which the audited social fund account is available.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent pursuing the recovery of social fund crisis loans on which individuals had defaulted in the last five years. [80344]

Steve Webb: Where an individual is in receipt of benefit, recovery of a social fund crisis loan can be made automatically from ongoing benefit in most cases. When an individual ceases to receive a benefit, then the Department's debt management group will seek to set up a repayment plan to recover any outstanding balance. Information is not available specifically on costs relating to such individuals who are in default, however, the costs incurred in seeking recovery of social fund crisis loans where the customer is no longer in receipt of benefit are detailed in the following table. The information is only available from 2009-10.

	£
2009-10	652,030
2010-11	483,089
2011 (April to October inclusive)	351,109

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals making a third application for a social fund crisis loan within a 12 month period were required to attend a face-to-face interview at a jobcentre in the latest period for which figures are available. [80346]

Steve Webb: The number of social fund crisis loan applicants required to attend the face-to-face third application interview from November 2010 to October 2011 inclusive was 487,498.

Of these the number that actually attended their interviews was 311,276.

These statistics are obtained from the Labour Market System and are not published.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for a social fund crisis loan were made by people *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 18 and 29, *(c)* between 30 and 49, *(d)* between 50 and 65 and *(e)* over 65 years old in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [80348]

Steve Webb: The information is shown in the following table.

Crisis loans in 2010-11 by age band

Age	*Number of awards*	*Percentage*
Under 18	256,300	7.8
18 to 29	1,584,600	48.1
30 to 49	1,208,400	36.7
50 to 65	230,000	7.0
Over 65	13,600	0.4
Total	3,292,900	—

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application as some people made more than one application.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for a Social Fund crisis loan were made by *(a)* women and *(b)* men in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [80358]

Steve Webb: The information is as follows:

Crisis loan applications in 2010-11 by gender

Gender	*Number of awards*	*Percentage*
Female	1,231,500	37.4
Male	2,058,900	62.5
Unknown	2,500	0.1
Total	3,292,900	

Notes:

1. The information provided is management information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
2. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application as some people made more than one application.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of allowing the partner of a claimant in receipt of income-related employment and support allowance to earn up to £143 per week before their income is treated as the income of the claimant in each of the next five years. [80801]

Chris Grayling: The practical effect of this change would be that the Department would be required to disregard £143 per week of a partner's earnings when calculating entitlement to income-related employment and support allowance (ESA) for all income-related ESA claimants with a working partner.

The effect is likely to be very large, leading to an increase in payments for each individual affected of up to £7,500 per year on ESA alone. It is estimated that those affected would see an average increase in their income-related ESA of around £90 per week.

Initial analysis based on the year 2012-13 suggests expenditure on ESA might increase by an estimated £500 million, rising over time in line with the ESA case load forecasts. In addition the knock-on effects in housing benefit and council tax benefit might add a further £50 million per year in expenditure.

It is assumed the disregard for council tax benefit and housing benefit would also have to be amended to bring it in line with the ESA disregard. This adds an additional estimated £50 million per year to the expenditure.

Pension Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants in receipt of pension credit he estimates have capital above *(a)* £16,000, *(b)* £20,000, *(c)* £30,000 and *(d)* each £10,000 interval up to £100,000. [80968]

Steve Webb: The information requested is in the following table:

Number of people in receipt of pension credit with capital over £16,000, February 2011

Amount of capital	*Number in receipt of pension credit*
Over £16,000 to £20,000	47,600
Over £20,000 to £30,000	62,500
Over £30,000 to £40,000	24,100
Over £40,000 to £50,000	8,700
Over £50,000 to £60,000	4,300
Over £60,000 to £70,000	1,500

Number of people in receipt of pension credit with capital over £16,000, February 2011

Amount of capital	*Number in receipt of pension credit*
Over £70,000 to £80,000	800
Over £80,000 to £90,000	[1]200
Over £90,000 to £100,000	[1]100

[1] Numbers are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

Notes:

1. For pension credit the first £10,000 of capital is disregarded. For capital over this amount £1 per week for every £500 or part £500 is taken into account when working out entitlement.
2. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources. The proportions from the 5% sample data have been used and applied to the overall 100% total for the benefit to determine the number with capital over £16,000 in receipt of pension credit.
3. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
4. Analysis suggests that those with higher levels of capital are likely to be income poor, although it is difficult to determine income levels as entitlement to additional amounts increases the level of the guarantee, which in turn can increase overall entitlement to pension credit.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Pensions

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department provides guidance to people considering opting out of private and company pension plans. [80362]

Steve Webb: The Department currently provides information via Directgov and in leaflet form about planning for retirement, pensions and the benefits and risks of saving including some information on if you stop contributing to a pension. New material is being developed to support the introduction of automatic enrolment in 2012. This material will be available early in 2012 and will cover opting out.

Provision of information in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Department for Social Development. However the provision generally mirrors that in Great Britain.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had discussions with his Israeli counterpart on pensions policy. [80555]

Steve Webb: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the right hon. Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), has not met with his Israeli counterpart to discuss pensions policy, nor are there any plans to do so in the near future.

Social Security Benefits

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which benefits were uprated for financial year 2011-12 using the September 2010 Consumer Prices Index measure of inflation. [80504]

Steve Webb: The following shows social security benefits and their relevant components that were up-rated by September 2010 CPI in 2011-12. Benefit rates in 2011-12 are published in the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2011.

Next year's proposed benefit rates will be announced to Parliament by ministerial statement later in the autumn.

Social security benefits up-rated by September 2010 CPI in 2011-12

- Attendance allowance
  - higher rate
  - lower rate
- Carer's allowance
- Council tax benefit
- Personal allowances
  - single
  - 18 to 24
  - 25 or over
  - entitled to main phase ESA
  - lone parent
  - couple
  - dependent children
- Premiums
  - family
  - disability
  - single
  - couple
  - enhanced disability
  - single
  - couple
  - severe disability
  - single
  - couple (lower rate)
  - couple (higher rate)
  - carer
  - ESA components
  - work-related activity
  - support
- Dependency increases
- Adult dependency increases for spouse or person looking after children—payable with;
  - state pension on own insurance (Cat A or B)
  - state pension (non-contributory, Cat C)
  - long term incapacity benefit
  - unemployability supplement.
  - Severe disablement allowance
  - Carers allowance
  - short-term incapacity benefit (over state pension age)
  - short-term incapacity benefit (under state pension age)
- Disability living allowance
- Care component
  - highest
  - middle
  - lowest
- Mobility component
  - higher
  - lower
- Employment and support allowance
- Personal allowances
  - single
  - under 25
  - 25 or over
  - lone parent
  - under 18

  - 18 or over
  - couple
  - both under 18
  - both under 18 with child
  - both under 18 (main phase)
  - both under 18 with child (main phase)
  - one 18 or over, one under 18
  - both over 18
  - claimant under 25, partner under 18
  - claimant 25 or over, partner under 18
  - claimant (main phase), partner under 18
- Premiums
  - enhanced disability
  - single
  - couple
  - severe disability
  - single
  - couple (lower rate)
  - couple (higher rate)
  - carer
- Components
  - work-related activity
  - support
- Housing benefit
- Personal allowances
  - single
  - under 25
  - 25 or over
  - entitled to main phase ESA
  - lone parent
  - under 18
  - 18 or over
  - entitled to main phase ESA
  - couple
  - both under 18
  - one or both 18 or over
  - claimant entitled to main phase ESA
  - dependent children
- Premiums
  - family
  - disability
  - single
  - couple
- Enhanced disability
  - single
  - couple
- Severe disability
  - single
  - couple (lower rate)
  - couple (higher rate)
- Carer
- ESA components
  - work-related activity
  - support
- Incapacity benefit
- Long-term incapacity benefit
- Short-term incapacity benefit (under state pension age)
  - lower rate
  - higher rate
- Short-term incapacity benefit (over state pension age)
  - lower rate
  - higher rate
- Income support
- Personal Allowances
  - single
  - under 25
  - 25 or over
  - lone parent
  - under 18
  - 18 or over
- couple
  - both under 18
  - both under 18—higher rate
  - one under 18, one under 25
  - one under 18, one 25 and over
  - both 18 or over
- Premiums
  - disability
  - single
  - couple
- Enhanced disability
  - single
  - couple
- severe disability
  - single
  - couple (lower rate)
  - couple (higher rate)
- carer
- Relevant sum for strikers
- Industrial injuries disablement benefit
- 18 and over, or under 18 with dependants
  - 100%
- Under 18
  - 100%
- Maximum life gratuity (lump sum)
- Unemployability supplement
  - increase for early incapacity
  - higher rate
  - middle rate
  - lower rate
- Constant attendance allowance
  - exceptional rate
  - intermediate rate
  - normal maximum rate
  - part-time rate
- Jobseeker's allowance
- Contribution based JSA—Personal rates
  - under 25
  - 25 or over
- Income-based JSA—personal allowances
  - under 25
  - 25 or over
- lone parent
  - under 18
  - 18 or over
- couple
  - both under 18
  - both under 18—higher rate

  - one under 18, one under 25
  - one under 18, one 25 and over
  - both 18 or over
- Premiums
  - disability
  - single
  - couple
  - enhanced disability
  - single
  - couple
  - severe disability
  - single
  - couple (lower rate)
  - couple (higher rate)
  - carer
- Prescribed sum for strikers
- Maternity allowance
- Standard rate
- Pension credit
- Additional amount for severe disability
  - single
  - couple (one qualifies)
  - couple (both qualify)
- Additional amount for carers
- Pneumoconiosis, byssinosis, and miscellaneous diseases scheme and the workmen's compensation (supplementation)
- Total disablement allowance and major incapacity allowance (maximum)
- Partial disablement allowance
- Unemployability supplement
  - increases for early incapacity
  - higher rate
  - middle rate
  - lower rate
- Constant attendance allowance
  - exceptional rate
  - intermediate rate
  - normal maximum rate
  - part-time rate
- Exceptionally severe disablement allowance
- Lesser incapacity allowance
  - maximum rate of allowance
  - based on loss of earnings over
- State pension
- Additional pension
- Increments to:
  - basic pension
  - additional pension
  - graduated Retirement Benefit (GRB)
  - inheritable lump sum
- Graduated retirement benefit (unit)
- Increase of long term incapacity for age
- Increase of long-term incapacity for age
  - higher rate
  - lower rate
- Invalidity allowance (transitional) for state pension recipients
  - higher rate
  - middle rate
  - lower rate
- Severe disablement allowance
- Basic rate
- Statutory adoption pay
- Standard Rate
- Statutory maternity pay
- Standard rate
- Statutory paternity pay
- Standard rate
- Statutory sick pay
- Standard rate
- Widows benefit
- Widowed mother's allowance
- Widow's pension
  - standard rate
- Bereavement benefit
- Widowed parent's allowance
- Bereavement Allowance
  - standard rate

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to levy charges to provide a paper copy of a change notification for benefit entitlement. [80698]

Chris Grayling: Benefit entitlement changes are notified by paper and no charges are levied.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether households moving on to universal credit from other benefits between October 2013 and April 2014 will receive transitional protection of the level of their state support. [80161]

Chris Grayling: We will offer transitional protection to universal credit recipients. This will ensure that they will not receive less as a result of their move to universal credit, where circumstances have remained the same.

The process of migrating claimants to universal credit will have an impact on transitional protection. Some claimants will move to the universal credit system naturally as circumstances in a current claim change. Other people will be moved over in a process managed by DWP. Transitional protection will only be applied in the latter circumstances and where universal credit would otherwise be lower than the total current award of benefit and tax credit.

We believe it is right to cushion recipients who are affected against a change that the Government are imposing. However it is not appropriate to protect legacy benefit amounts when circumstances underlying an award are no longer recognisable as those on which the legacy calculation was made.

It is currently expected that managed moves will commence in April 2014, and so transitional protection will only apply from this time.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the universal credit of an average household of two adults and two children would be withdrawn if the household has savings of *(a)* £15,900 and *(b)* £16,100. [80802]

Chris Grayling: We will set a capital cut-off in universal credit at £16,000 (both for single claimants and couples making a joint claim). Capital in excess of £6,000 will be treated as equivalent to a weekly income (known as "tariff income") of £1 per week for each complete £250 over this £6,000 floor. Capital under £6,000 will be disregarded. These rules will apply to all elements of universal credit.

Therefore:

(a) If a household had savings of £15,900 then their universal credit award would be reduced by £39 a week, which is a £1 reduction for every £250 of savings over £6,000.

(b) Claimants who have more than £16,000 capital will not meet the financial conditions to claim universal credit.

Winter Fuel Payments

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people will receive winter fuel payments in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral, *(c)* the North West, *(d)* England and *(e)* the UK in 2011-12. [80797]

Steve Webb: The information for winter 2010-11 (the latest winter for which information is available) is provided in the documents—winter fuel payment recipients 2010-11 by parliamentary constituencies and gender (all) and winter fuel payment recipients 2010-11 by local authority and gender (all). These are available in the Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

The number of people receiving winter fuel payments is expected to reduce slightly each winter due to the rise in the qualifying age linked to women's state pension age. However we expect the numbers to be broadly similar in winter 2011-12.

Work Capability Assessment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 109W, on work capability assessment, what representations he has received from groups representing sufferers of *(a)* Parkinson's disease and *(b)* multiple sclerosis. [78102]

Chris Grayling: The Department values the views of a wide range of disability groups and we are engaged in ongoing and helpful dialogue both at ministerial and official level with group representatives. A full list of ministerial meetings is available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ministers-meetings-overseas.shtml

In addition, representatives from both Parkinson's UK and the MS Society form part of the group of charities and experts asked by Professor Malcolm Harrington to provide recommendations for refinement of the descriptors in relation to fluctuating conditions used in the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) as part of his second Independent Review of the WCA. We look forward to receiving these recommendations from Professor Harrington.

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 67W, on the Work programme, if he will assess the desirability of statutory restrictions on sharing performance data for *(a)* Work programme and *(b)* Flexible New Deal providers. [80914]

Chris Grayling: We are clear that the UK Statistics Authority guidelines are to be followed to ensure that data are accurate and timely. Therefore the plan for Work programme data release will go ahead as previously stated.

The figures setting out the job outcomes for Flexible New Deal have been published on the DWP website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=ddfnd

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will provide data in April 2013 on referrals to *(a)* Tier 1 and *(b)* Tier 2 providers by Work programme prime contractors. [80967]

Chris Grayling: The Department intends to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012. This is in line with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure published statistics meet the required high quality standards.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers' Licence

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to include in the ATOL scheme holidays sold by airlines. [78737]

Mrs Villiers: The ATOL Reform Consultation, which took place between 23 June and 15 September 2011, asked whether airline holiday sales should be brought under the protection of the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme. To do so would require new primary legislation. We are currently analysing the consultation responses and plan to announce the decision on this later in the year.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will include within her Department's proposed ATOL reforms a provision that a customer would be issued an ATOL certificate notifying them when their travel arrangements are not ATOL protected in addition to when they are ATOL protected. [79479]

Mrs Villiers: This is not a proposal I am considering since current legislation does not enable us to impose ATOL related requirements on holidays not covered by the ATOL scheme.

However, the proposed reforms we are considering and work already under way by the Civil Aviation Authority are designed to raise awareness among holidaymakers of the importance of checking whether their travel plans have ATOL protection. The introduction of the ATOL certificate should help ensure that consumers find it easier to understand which holidays have ATOL protection and which do not. We encourage all consumers to consider carefully what insurance or financial protection they might need before making their holiday choice, particularly where they choose an option which is not within the ATOL scheme.

It is important that businesses provide consumers with all the information they need to make an informed choice about financial protection. We and the Civil Aviation Authority are working with the Office of Fair Trading to educate businesses about the risk of their communications misleading customers about the level of protection being provided with a holiday and consequently breaching the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading regulations.

I intend to announce the final decisions on the details of the ATOL reforms consulted on over the summer, including the ATOL certificate, later in the year.

Airlines: Standards

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people required repatriation from overseas as a result of the failure of an airline in the last 10 years. [78736]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested is not available as there is no statutory scheme to repatriate airline passengers in the event of an airline insolvency.

The Air Travel Organiser's Licensing (ATOL) scheme run by the Civil Aviation Authority repatriates travellers whose holiday falls within the scope of the scheme (and on which an ATOL levy has been paid) if their tour operator becomes insolvent. Around 126,000 holidaymakers have benefited from this over the past 10 years.

Information about the cause of each tour operator failure is not readily available. Some repatriated holidaymakers will have been on a package holiday with a tour operator that was owned by an airline or part of the same group as an airline.

Aviation: Baggage

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) from which airlines she has received representations concerning restrictions or charges on passengers for bringing duty free and travel purchases onboard in addition to their normal airline hand baggage allowance; [79829]

(2) what her policy is on the imposition by airlines of restrictions or charges on passengers for bringing duty-free and travel retail purchases onboard in addition to their standard airline baggage allowance. [79885]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has received no such representations from airlines.

The size and amount of cabin or hold baggage that a passenger is permitted to take on board a commercial aircraft is a matter for airlines to decide as private sector companies.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to fill the position of chief scientific adviser in her Department. [78755]

Mike Penning: We are currently at an advanced stage of a recruitment campaign to fill the position of chief scientific adviser.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in her Department; and if she will make a statement. [77485]

Norman Baker: The Department does not employ full-time equivalent staff on consultancy contracts. However, the Department does engage full-time equivalent staff via "contingent labour" contracts. At present there are 21 such full-time equivalent contractors within the Department.

Departmental Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many transport-related fines her Department has settled on behalf of its staff; and at what cost in each year since 2007. [74349]

Norman Baker: It is Department for Transport policy that staff are expected to pay transport-related fines, e.g. parking tickets, without recourse to public funds.

The only exceptions to this policy are where parking fines are incurred due to operational necessity. The Government Car and Despatch Agency pay fines arising where the overriding security requirements of high profile passengers or sensitive documents dictate the choice of parking location. In addition the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency pay parking fines necessarily incurred in exceptional circumstances such as extended court appearances. Details of these payments are not recorded centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued; [78909]

(2) in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by her Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78910]

Norman Baker: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. FOI case statistics are compiled separately for the central Department and each of the seven agencies.

Statistics are aggregated each quarter and annually for publication by the Ministry of Justice. The Department's statistics for 2010 and for the first and second quarters of 2011 can be found at

> http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

Statistics for the third quarter will be published later this year.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Minister in her Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information made under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78911]

Norman Baker: Decisions on whether exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act apply to responses to requests are generally taken not by a Minister but by the head of the business unit concerned (usually at SCS pay band 1 level).

The Minister responsible for the policy or business area covered by the request ordinarily acts as the qualified person in determining whether the exemption in section 36 of the Act should apply. The decision on whether the section 36 exemption applies may however be taken by any Minister in the Department.

Public Sector: Bonuses

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78534]

Norman Baker: The following table shows the number and the percentage of civil servants in the Department for Transport and its seven executive agencies who received a non-consolidated performance payment in each financial year since 2007.

Payments made in a financial year relate to performance in the previous year. Most payments are well under £1,000.

Financial year	*Number of payments*	*Percentage of employees*
2008-09	11,564	63.5
2009-10	10,032	54.1
2010-11	10,036	55.1
2011-12	9,800	54.5

A close and effective link between pay and performance is a key element of the reward arrangements for the civil service. For the senior civil service (SCS), for whom pay is managed by the Cabinet Office and which is based on recommendations by the Senior Salaries Review Body, performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments.

For staff outside SCS, Departments have delegated authority to tailor reward packages to meet their own business needs and performance pay is a matter for each organisation.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) her Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by her Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78507]

Norman Baker: To confirm the total expenditure for the entire Department and its agencies, by calendar year, over the period indicated would incur a disproportionate cost. However, the following information, organised by calendar year, is readily available.

In 2009-10, the Department's then Legal Services Directorate (now its Legal Service) spent £1,440,981 on Treasury Solicitor's Department fees, £189,662 on parliamentary counsel's fees and £214,966 on external solicitors and counsel.

In 2010-11, the Department's Legal Service spent £746,076 on Treasury Solicitor's Department fees, and £61,697 on external solicitors and counsel.

In the first six months of 2011-12, the Department's Legal Service spent £161,320 on Treasury Solicitor's Department fees, and £4,018 on external solicitors and counsel. A payment of £82,713 was made in respect of parliamentary counsel's fees covering the whole of 2011-12.

The following information on legal spend across the Department is also available:

			£
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
DFT (Central Department)	[1]—	[1]—	[2]6,638,975
Highways Agency	[1]—	7,171,952	5,568,757
Vehicle Certification Agency	3,764	6,045	4,992
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	[1]—	[1]—	232,502
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	146,955	153,207	378,421

[1] Information not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

[2] This figure includes the legal spend of the Legal Service mentioned in paragraph (3).

To confirm all of the occasions when the Department and its seven Executive agencies have been involved in court proceedings during the periods in question would, I regret, incur a disproportionate cost. However, the following information about decided cases in the superior courts (High Court; Court of Appeal and Court of the Justice of the EU) is readily available.

	Case	*Outcome*
2007	Byrne (a minor) *v.* The Motor Insurers Bureau and the Secretary of State for Transport [2007] EWHC 1268 (QB) (5 June 2007)	A number of preliminary issues were determined in favour of the claimant
	Moto Hospitality Ltd *v.* Secretary of State for Transport EWCA Civ 764 (26 July 2007)	The Secretary of State's appeal against a decision of the Lands Tribunal was allowed
	Moore *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and the Motor Insurers Bureau [2007] EWCA Civ 908 (26 July 2007)	The Secretary of State's application to strike out the claim was successful

	Case	*Outcome*
	Moore *v.* Secretary of State for Transport [2007] EWCA Civ 908 (26 July 2007)	Permission to appeal was granted
	(Centro) *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2007] EWHC 2729 (Admin) (21 November 2007)	Permission to seek judicial review was refused
2009	R (First Essex Buses Ltd) *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2009] EWHC 3024 (Admin) (25 November 2009)	The claimant's application for judicial review was dismissed
	Barbone and Anor (on behalf of Stop Stansted Expansion) *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2009] EWHC 463 (Admin) (13 March 2009)	The claimants' application for judicial review was dismissed
	R (Yollari and Anor) *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2009] EWHC 1918 (Admin) (28 July 2009)	The claimants' application for judicial review was dismissed
	R (Paul Bryant) *v.* Secretary of State for Transport [2009] EWHC 3586 (Admin) (21 August 2009)	Permission to seek judicial review was refused
	R (Wiltshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Geoff Yates) *v.* Swindon Borough Council (Defendant) and Taylor Wimpey, Wiltshire County Council and the Highways Agency (Interested Parties) [2009] EWHC 1586 (Admin) (26 June 2009)	The claimants' application for judicial review was dismissed
	Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd *v.* Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency [2009] EWHC 3132 (Admin) (20 October 2009)	The company's appeal against conviction was dismissed
2010	Bradley Fold Travel Ltd and Anor *v.* Secretary of State for Transport [2010] EWCA Civ 695 (18 June 2010)	The claimants' appeal was dismissed
	Carswell *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2010] EWHC 3230 (QB) (9 December 2010)	The claim was dismissed
	Afton Chemical Ltd *v.* Secretary of State for Transport [2010] All ER (D) 73 (Jul) (8 July 2010)	The Court of Justice of the European Union ruled on a preliminary issue
	R (London Borough of Hillingdon and Ors) *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2010] EWHC 626 (Admin) (26 March 2010)	Judgment that, until a national policy statement under the Planning Act 2008 was concluded, the Secretary of State could not limit the scope of the permissible debate about airport expansion
	Certain Bus Operating Companies in the Stagecoach Group and Ors *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2010] EWHC 223 (Admin) (16 February 2010)	Judgment that the Secretary of State's interpretation of the applicable legislation was to be preferred
	R (Yollari and Anor) *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2010] EWCA Civ 1093 (12 October 2010)	The claimants' appeal was dismissed
	Beckley Parish Council *v.* Secretary of State for Transport and Ors [2010] EWHC 606 (Admin) (5 March 2010)	The claimants' application for judicial review was dismissed
	Harding *v.* Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) [2010] EWHC 713 (Admin) (10 March 2010)	The appeal against conviction was dismissed
	Global Knafaim Leasing Ltd and CGTSN Ltd *v.* Civil Aviation Authority and BAA Ltd (Defendants) and Eurocontrol, NATS (En Route) plc, NATS (Services) Ltd and Secretary Of State for Transport (Interested Parties) (5) Aviation Working Group (Intervener) [2010] EWHC 1348 (Admin) (11 June 2010)	The claimants' application for judicial review was dismissed
	Neil Herron and Parking Appeals Ltd (Claimants) *v.* Parking Adjudicator (Defendant) and Sunderland City Council, Parking and Traffic Appeals, Traffic Penalty Tribunal, NCP Service Ltd and Secretary of State for Transport (Interested Parties) [2010] EWHC 1161 (Admin) (25 May 2010)	The claimants' application for judicial review was dismissed
2011	Harm Platje *v.* Vehicle and Operator Service Agency [2011] EWHC 1369 (Admin) (27 May 2011)	The appeal against conviction was dismissed

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times her Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78513]

Norman Baker: The Department's Legal Service provides advice to Ministers both directly and by working with departmental officials. Legal advice is given to contribute to the development and implementation of policies, projects and legislation, and consequently the Legal Service is involved across the full range of Ministers' functions.

As the Department does not keep records in a form that would provide a ready numerical answer to this question, I regret that the information sought could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times her Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78516]

Norman Baker: I regret that the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following table details, by year, the total numbers of individual external counsel (i.e. barristers) who were instructed by parts of the Department during the years in questions.

	DFT Legal Service[1]	*DSA*
2007	[2]—	0
2009	26	1
2010	15	0

	DFT Legal Service[1]	*DSA*
2011 (first six months)	4	1

---

[1] This information is based on financial records showing that one or more fee notes of a particular barrister were paid.

[2] This information is not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77324]

Norman Baker: The figures provided here are for items recorded centrally as lost or stolen, broken down into the totals for the central Department (including the Shared Service Centre) and the agencies. The figures provided do not include thefts or losses where records are not available centrally, or such thefts or losses that were not reported. While some of this latter information may exist in records held locally within the central Department and the agencies it can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

The breakdown of figures for IT equipment recorded as lost or stolen since May 2010 is as follows:

	Lost		*Stolen*	
	DFT	*Agencies*	*DFT*	*Agencies*
(a) Computers (including laptops)	4	3	2	15
(b) Mobile phones	9	8	0	4
(c) BlackBerrys	15	9	7	1
(d) Other IT equipment	39	24	1	14

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of her Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies. [78522]

Norman Baker: In June 2011:

(a) the Department's own legal service, which supports both the central Department and its agencies had 80 members of staff: 71 lawyers and nine administration staff.

(b) in relation to the Department's executive agencies, only the DVLA is relevant. Its own legal team had six members of staff: one lawyer and five administration staff.

We do not hold the information on the number of staff working in legal teams of non-departmental bodies. I regret that this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department and the bodies for which she is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78510]

Norman Baker: The number of officials in the Department for Transport and its Executive Agencies on salaries within the ranges specified, as at 1 April 2011, is set out in the following table. None earns more than £175,000.

Number

	More than £65,000	*More than £95,000*	*More than £140,000*
DFT(C)	207	24	3
DSA	7	2	0
DVLA	25	2	0
GCDA	1	0	0
HA	21	3	3
MCA	3	2	0
VOSA	17	0	0
VCA	1	1	0
Total	282	34	6

Information, in the format requested, on officials in the Department's non-departmental public bodies and other arm's length organisations is not held centrally. Salary data on officials in these organisations are held on Data.Gov at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/organogram-dft

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she receives any external funding for *(a)* her ministerial office and *(b)* her advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [78016]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), does not receive any external funding for either her ministerial office or her advisers.

Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's research and development budget was in each of the last five years; and what that budget will be for each year of the spending review period. [78839]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 November 2011]*: Historical figures are reported annually through the SET tables published on the BIS and ONS websites:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/science/science-funding/set-stats

In addition, the budget for 2010-11 was £63 million.

For 2011-12, the Department has overall provision of £49.5 million for external expenditure on research. Requirements and the funding needed for years beyond 2011-12 are at planning stage.

Public Employee Bids

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications from employees to run services for which her Department is directly responsible she has received since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77599]

Norman Baker: The Department has not received any applications to date.

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* Ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by her Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78519]

Norman Baker: The information sought could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I can, however, help as follows.

First, all statutory instruments (including those issued by the Department) are published. In the case of instruments up to and including those issued in 2008, they are available in bound volumes. In the case of local orders, publication in hard copy is limited to the title and statutory instrument number in the bound volumes.

Secondly, statutory instruments are also available electronically on the following website:

www.legislation.gov.uk

although the only local orders on it are those issued since October 2009.

Thirdly, the types of ministerial orders and other legislation likely to fall within categories *(b)* and *(c)* of the question include:

i. orders in respect of individual vehicles made under section 44 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 allowing vehicles, that would otherwise not be permitted, to be used on the road;

ii. authorisations under section 64(1)(b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to allow road signs, that would otherwise not be permitted, to be used;

iii. directions by virtue of direction 59 of the Traffic Signs General Directions 2002 (Part 2 of S.I. 2002/3113) to allow signs to be used in a combination that would otherwise not be permitted;

iv. directions to protect the use of land from any conflicting development which could interfere with the construction of transport infrastructure;

v. directions relating to transport security;

vi. marine safety directions under Schedule 3A of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

Some of these are published.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* grade six and seven, or equivalent, press officers and *(b)* ministerial private secretaries in her Department. [77926]

Norman Baker: My Department follows Cabinet Office policy and guidance on national security vetting. Publicly available national security vetting information is contained in the booklet: "HMG Personnel Security Controls" accessible on the internet at the following address:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

and can be made available in the Library of the House. It would not be appropriate to identify posts subject to security vetting as this could highlight who has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministerial-appointed policy advisers in her Department; and if she will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77927]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport assesses the security vetting requirements of each role using Cabinet Office guidance "HMG Personnel Security Controls", which is available from the Cabinet Office website. This guidance describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be subject to national security vetting checks. However, it would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within the Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within this Department has access to sensitive material and therefore could be used for targeting purposes.

The names of special advisers are published quarterly by Cabinet Office.

There are no ministerially-appointed policy advisers in the Department.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in her Department. [77928]

Norman Baker: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services provide national security vetting services to my Department at all three levels. Ministry of Defence (MOD) Business Services National Security Vetting provide counter terrorist check and security check vetting services to the Department in respect of specific parts of the transport industry.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were in possession of a security pass for her main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77929]

Norman Baker: There are 56 temporary passes and 626 daily visitor passes currently available to be issued in the main Department for Transport headquarters building. The passes are collected once they have expired.

Every visitor, including contractors, sign in at reception before being given a pass. I regret that information on the number of persons passes were issued to could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by manually reviewing each visitor book.

Telephone Helplines

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by her Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last five years. [77715]

Norman Baker: The Department does not currently operate any permanent telephone helplines, but directly manages four public facing agency contact centres. The budget and call volumes for each agency contact centre are as follows:

		Call volumes (million)				
Agency	*Budget 2011-12 (£ million)*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
DVLA	18.5	27.9	20.6	19.5	20.4	20.3
DSA	3.9	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0
VOSA	1.7	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9
HA	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	24.9	30.6	23.2	22.6	23.6	23.4

These provide a range of services to citizens and businesses via telephone, e-mail and post including: supplying advice and information on services; handling inquiries about driver and vehicle licensing transactions; dealing with bookings for driving tests and vehicle inspections; and providing up to date information on road works and traffic conditions on the strategic road network.

DSA also provides a small contact centre for the driving theory test. This is part of an externally tendered contract for which costs and call volumes for the contact centre element are not separately available.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each public body for which she is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78373]

Norman Baker: Across the Department for Transport and associated public bodies, records indicate that one internship has taken place since 1 November last year that fits the specified criteria (a two week placement at High Speed 2 Ltd).

In addition, the Department is supporting work experience that falls within the Government's 'Get Britain Working' programme. Under this initiative, the Department has delivered 125 work experience placements to date allocated from Job Centre Plus. Placements are continuing across all agencies and the central Department and are offered to jobseeker's allowance customers aged 18-24 whose limited experience of work is acting as a barrier to employment. Although these placements are unpaid in terms of departmental funding, candidates do remain in receipt of their benefits while in post.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by her Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79556]

Norman Baker: The response times for named day parliamentary questions is shown in the following table.

		Delay in answer (days)				
	(a) On time	*(b) 1 to 5*	*(c) 6 to 10*	*(d) 11 to 20*	*21 to 30*	*(e) 30+*
2010						
May	11	7	0	0	0	0
June	32	21	6	1	6	1
July	36	20	6	3	0	0
August	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	19	7	0	0	0	0
October	47	12	19	10	3	2
November	46	16	18	8	1	5
December	40	15	13	8	9	7
2011						
January	25	28	21	3	2	4
February	15	24	6	4	0	1
March	27	30	11	6	6	0
April	2	4	6	6	0	1
May	26	1	4	4	5	1
June	53	26	11	13	4	4
July	45	17	15	6	0	6
August	11	2	0	1	0	0
September	23	6	6	2	8	4
October	38	14	10	4	2	0

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

E-mail

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers in her Department use private e-mail accounts for the conduct of government business. [73202]

Norman Baker: The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

European Aviation Safety Authority

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the outcomes were of the meeting of EASA's Advisory Group of National Authorities on 25 and 26 October 2011; and if she will make a statement. [80152]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Crawley (Henry Smith) on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 186W.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by her Department using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08 , (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73488]

Norman Baker: Data for 2007-08 are not available and to obtain them would result in disproportional cost. In addition, level 3 or enhanced transaction entry details for 2008-09 and 2009-10 could be provided only at disproportional cost.

A recent Freedom of Information (FOI) reply, F0007430 dated 8 June 2011, requested details of Government Procurement Cards spend above £500 for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (up to June 2010).

This reply and the associated spreadsheets has been placed on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/foi/dft-f0007430

Heathrow Airport

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the proposal to construct a third runway at Heathrow airport. [79689]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The proposal for a third runway at Heathrow airport is referred to in a number of responses recently received to the scoping document on developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation. The coalition committed to cancelling a third runway at Heathrow in its programme for government.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the effects of High Speed 2 on levels of youth unemployment. [80218]

Justine Greening: There was no direct assessment of the effect of HS2 on youth unemployment, however, the London-West Midlands portion of the proposed high speed rail network would support the creation of over 40,000 jobs, across a range of sectors and in some relatively poorer performing areas of Birmingham and London. The wider network supported by the Government would be likely to offer similar opportunities in the cities of Northern England.

Invalid Vehicles: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries involving powered (i) wheelchairs and (ii) mobility scooters have occurred on roads in each of the last three years. [80838]

Norman Baker: As road casualty statistics do not currently include mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs as a separate vehicle category, we have no central database of the number of vehicles involved in accidents, but we are aware of specific incidents. From 2013 the police will be able to record whether a mobility vehicle has been involved in an accident on the public highway.

In 2010 the Department initiated a survey to help assess the number of mobility scooter users and the extent to which their use may have injured people. I will be considering its conclusions as part of an overall review of the laws governing the use of mobility vehicles. The results of the survey can be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/trsnstatsatt/mobilityscooters.html

Invalid Vehicles: Eyesight

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to impose a minimum eyesight requirement on users of *(a)* powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters and *(b)* cyclists. [80596]

Norman Baker: As part of the Department for Transport's review of the use of mobility vehicles, I have asked my officials to undertake further work with transport operators, the mobility vehicles industry and user groups on a range of issues, including a possible minimum eyesight requirement for mobility vehicle users and incentives for them to meet these requirements. No decision has been taken.

I would also refer the right hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Bury South (Mr Lewis) of 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 249W, and my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 284W, for further details on my recent announcement.

There are no plans to require cyclists to meet a minimum eyesight requirement.

NDPBs: Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible (i) in 2000,

(ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78528]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has responsibility for 12 arm's length bodies (ALBs) that help deliver its strategic aims and objectives. The vast majority of those working for such organisations will be public servants rather than civil servants as they do not work directly for the Crown. However, there may be occasions where civil servants are loaned or seconded from their parent Department to work for an ALB for a limited period of time.

ALBs have authority to recruit according to their individual business requirements. As such, the Department does not hold information relating to the number of civil servants employed by each of its ALBs and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Piers: Redcar and Cleveland

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has received any representations from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations on funding for an additional traditional pier in Redcar and Cleveland. [77188]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not received any representations from individuals or organisations about the funding of an additional traditional pier in Redcar and Cleveland.

Railways: Franchises

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will instruct rail operating company Abellio to provide details of the company's discussions with Angel Trains on a reduction in the fleet serving the Greater Anglia rail franchise; if she will place any such information in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [80168]

Mrs Villiers: Abellio submitted a compliant bid in line with the requirements of the Invitation to Tender. Their discussions with Angel trains are a commercial issue between the two parties.

Railways: Kent

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of investment in selective heating of conductor rails on the rail line between Faversham and Ramsgate. [80265]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail is rolling out an extensive programme of conductor rail heating across London and the south-east which is due to be completed by January 2012. Routes in Kent that will benefit from this investment include Ramsgate to London Charing Cross via Canterbury West, and Faversham to London Victoria via the Medway Towns. The installation of conductor rail heating between Ramsgate and Faversham should be carried out next year.

Roads: Railways

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the additional road and rail infrastructure required to meet demand at existing standards for the *(a)* upper and *(b)* lower limits of the projected rise in the population of the UK made by the Office for National Statistics by 2050. [80634]

Mrs Villiers: The Department collects and publishes a range of official statistics that track changes in people's travel behaviour and their use of transport infrastructure. Most of these statistics are summarised in "Transport Statistics Great Britain", the Department's main annual statistical compendium publication.

The Department uses these statistics and long-term projections, including population estimates from the Office for National Statistics, to forecast future demand for transport.

National Policy Statements (NPS) set out the Government's assessment of the need for different types of infrastructure, including in relation to trends in population. The Department intends shortly to launch a consultation on a draft NPS for national road and rail networks.

Roads: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with local authorities on support for their winter resilience plans. [76963]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 27 October 2011]*: The Department for Transport works closely with the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on local resilience matters.

Resilience advisers from DCLG regularly meet with local resilience forums, which comprise a number of organisations and agencies who deal with emergency planning issues, including representatives from local highway authorities, to ensure suitable preparations are being made for winter.

Transport: Capital Investment

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department has done on bringing forward infrastructure spending during the comprehensive spending review period. [78608]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 November 2011]*: The Department is contributing to the Government's growth review, and announcements will be made in due course.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration: Longannet

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish all documents relating to the negotiations for the withdrawn carbon capture and storage project at Longannet. [79929]

Charles Hendry: Extensive information about the carbon capture and storage project at Longannet was published through release of the Scottish Power CCS Consortium Front End Engineering and Design study on the DECC website. This is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/emissions/ccs/demo_prog/feed/feed.aspx

Other documents relating to the negotiations remain commercially confidential.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of the case for amalgamating the Civil Nuclear constabulary with the Ministry of Defence police; and if he will make a statement. [80593]

Charles Hendry: The Civil Nuclear constabulary and Ministry of Defence police are already working towards closer operational interoperability and collaboration in order to enhance the effectiveness and protection of defence and civil nuclear sites. MOD and DECC Ministers have recently agreed that a scoping study should be undertaken to establish whether a merger would bring further net benefits.

Cuadrilla Resources

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates he has met representatives of Cuadrilla Resources since May 2010. [80027]

Charles Hendry: All formal ministerial meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and can be found on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Since May 2010, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has not met Cuadrilla Resources. I did however meet Cuadrilla during a drilling site visit on 11 March 2011.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80185]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not awarded any contracts specifically for design services. Our design work is either done in-house or on a project basis commissioned via the Central Office of Information (COI).

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80202]

Gregory Barker: The information is as follows.

		Cost (£)	*Date*
Logos	Green Deal trademark design	9,588	Commissioned in October 2010
Buildings		0	
Advertising	Vacancy advertisements	5,999.98	May 2010 to present
Stationery		0	
Campaigns	Check, Switch, Insulate, Save	486.40	October 2011
	Greener government cross-government campaign	510	May 2010 to March 2011

Electricity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures he is putting in place to support new entrants into the electricity market; and if he will make a statement. [79989]

Charles Hendry: Poor wholesale market liquidity is acting as a significant barrier to entry in electricity wholesale and retail markets and a key aim of Electricity Market Reform (EMR) is to encourage new entrants.

Ofgem have published their analysis on electricity market liquidity and expect to reach conclusions at the end of this year. We are working closely with Ofgem to ensure that taken together EMR and the liquidity reforms reduce barriers to entry and deliver the necessary improvements in wholesale market liquidity. We will act where necessary to introduce reforms where the structural barriers to market entry are not addressed through the actions taken by Ofgem.

In addition, we are cutting red tape for small energy suppliers by raising the customer number threshold at which Government obligations apply, to help small suppliers grow and increase competition.

Energy

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department last met (i) the chief executive and (ii) other representatives of (A) EDF Energy, (B) Centrica, (C) Scottish Power, (D) RWE NPower, (E) E.on and (F) Scottish and Southern Energy; [79844]

(2) how many times he has met the chief executive of *(a)* EDF Energy, *(b)* Centrica, *(c)* Scottish Power, *(d)* RWE NPower, *(e)* E.on and (f) Scottish and Southern Energy since May 2010; and on what dates such meetings took place; [79845]

(3) on how many occasions he has attended a function at the invitation of *(a)* EDF Energy, *(b)* Centrica, *(c)* Scottish Power, *(d)* RWE NPower, *(e)* E.on and *(f)* Scottish and Southern Energy in an official capacity since May 2010; and on what dates any such functions took place. [79847]

Charles Hendry: Ministers meet and attend functions with energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues. Quarterly lists of DECC Ministers' meetings that involve outside interested parties are published on the DECC website, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Energy: Billing

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made on improving the information provided in energy bills. [79706]

Charles Hendry: We have recently negotiated a voluntary agreement with suppliers to provide customers with a "signpost" on bills to cheaper deals this winter, and that an additional communication should be sent to their customers who pay by cash or cheque to let them know how much they could save by moving to the cheapest standard direct debit tariff. There is also a commitment from suppliers to assess the impact of the signpost on bills and improve it in the light of this evidence.

Energy suppliers have also agreed to look at ways to enable customers to compare their gas and electricity consumption in time for next winter, including the potential for a web based tool that would provide consumers with a personalised comparison with similar households in their area.

Energy: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements were reached on energy subsidy reform at the 2011 G20 Cannes Summit. [80377]

Charles Hendry: At the G20 summit in Cannes Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to

> "rationalise and phase-out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuels subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest".

Energy: Prices

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what criteria will be applied to determine the low income households that will be eligible for the affordable warmth element of the Energy Company Obligation; [79983]

(2) what proportion of the overall Energy Company Obligation will be targeted at the affordable warmth element. [79984]

Gregory Barker: We will publish and consult on our proposals for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) very shortly. Our proposals will cover the outcomes we would require the energy companies to achieve under the affordable warmth component of the overall obligation and the associated eligibility criteria households would need to meet. The accompanying impact assessment will estimate the cost of delivery.

Energy: Unsolicited Goods and Services

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on ensuring that doorstep selling does not take place during smart meter installation; and if he will make a statement. [79981]

Gregory Barker: It is essential that consumers' interests are protected during the smart meter installation process. We are currently consulting on the rules that will underpin a smart metering installation code of practice. The code will focus on the consumer experience during the installation process and set out minimum standards of services that consumers should receive. As part of that consultation, we have suggested that suppliers should only be able to conclude sales during the installation visit with the customer's prior written consent. We will take final decisions on this and other code issues in light of responses to the consultation.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Ofgem on prohibiting the practice of doorstep selling by energy companies; and if he will make a statement. [79982]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers meet with Ofgem officials on a regular basis to discuss energy issues, including issues relating to the protection of energy consumers.

Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the marketing activities used by suppliers. It is therefore for them to consider whether the evidence showed that a ban on doorstep sales was clearly in the consumer interests.

I note that most of the large energy suppliers have announced they will suspend or cease doorstep sales.

Fuel Poverty

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the expenditure required on household energy efficiency in order to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016. [80003]

Gregory Barker: The Coalition Government are committed to doing all that is reasonably practicable to end fuel poverty in England by 2016 and to helping people, especially low income vulnerable households, heat their homes more affordably. There are three contributory factors to a household being in fuel poverty—the household's income, the energy efficiency of the property and energy prices.

While we have made no assessment of the level of energy efficiency expenditure that would be required to eliminate fuel poverty by 2016, there are a number of policies in place to improve the energy efficiency of low income and vulnerable households, including Warm Front and the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. In the future, the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation will provide support with heating and energy efficiency measures to those who need it most.

In addition, the new warm home discount scheme will assist up to 2 million homes each year, helping among others, over 600,000 pensioners in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit with £120 off their energy bills this winter.

Fuel Poverty: Students

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* further education and *(b)* higher education students living in fuel poverty. [80763]

Charles Hendry: No estimate has been made of the number of students living in fuel poverty. Fuel poverty is measured at a household level. The English Housing survey, which provides most of the data used for modelling fuel poverty, does not record information that would accurately identify all households containing students.

Green Deal Scheme

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to announce details of the qualifying criteria for the Green Deal. [80641]

Charles Hendry: The details of the qualifying criteria will be in the Green Deal consultation, which will be published shortly.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's stakeholder polling on the Green Deal. [80977]

Charles Hendry: The Department has not conducted any 'stakeholder polling' on the Green Deal. However, it has commissioned consumer research, both quantitative and qualitative. Results will be published on the DECC website alongside the Green Deal consultation document. Copies of the reports will also be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Lighting: Pollution

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the risks posed by mercury vapour released from compact fluorescent lamps when broken. [79708]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has reviewed the potential health effects of mercury exposure from broken compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). They found that the exposure was likely to be very small. A small proportion of the mercury could be released into a room if the bulb were broken, but this was most unlikely to pose a health risk to anyone immediately exposed.

The HPA has published a factsheet on mercury and CFLs. This provides precautionary guidance on how to deal with any broken bulbs. It is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1207293983993?p=1158313435037

Natural Gas: Exploration

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what steps his Department's chief scientific adviser *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take in assessing the relationship between shale gas drilling and seismic activity in the vicinity of Cuadrilla Resources' Preese Hall-1 well; [79927]

(2) when he expects work on shale gas exploration to resume; [79928]

(3) what assessment he has made of the report by Cuadrilla Resources on the cause of seismic activity in the vicinity of Cuadrilla Resources' Preese Hall-1 well; and if he will make a statement; [80026]

(4) what assessment he has made of Cuadrilla Resources' conclusions on the causes of seismic activity in the vicinity of Cuadrilla Resources' Preese Hall-1 well; [80028]

(5) what assessment he has made of the likelihood of further seismic activity related to shale gas exploration. [80029]

Charles Hendry: A geomechanical study has been undertaken by Cuadrilla Resources, the operator carrying out shale gas exploration near Blackpool, which was submitted to the Department on 2 November 2011. It is being reviewed very carefully by DECC, in consultation with the British Geological Survey, and other independent experts. The Department's chief scientific adviser and his staff will be involved throughout.

Cuadrilla's report confirms a connection between the hydraulic fracturing at the Preese Hall-1 well and the seismic activity which took place on 1 April and 27 May 2011.

No decision on the resumption of these hydraulic fracture operations will be made until the implications of this report, and of any further analysis which may prove necessary, has been fully considered, and appropriate practical measures have been approved by Ministers to minimise the risk of such events occurring again. Other key regulators will be consulted before any such decision is taken.

Ofgem

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many times he has met the *(a)* chief executive and *(b)* chairman of Ofgem since May 2010; and on what dates such meetings took place; [79854]

(2) on how many occasions he has attended a function at the invitation of Ofgem since May 2010; and on what dates any such functions took place. [79855]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers meet and attend functions with Ofgem officials on a regular basis to discuss a range of market issues.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what his policy is on provision of a higher level feed-in tariff rate for school buildings; [79057]

(2) what assessment he has made on the potential effect of his proposal to reduce the feed-in tariff on schemes providing solar energy to schools. [79058]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Under both the current and proposed feed-in tariffs (FITs), schools would be eligible for the same level of support as other types of generator. The Department has not assessed the specific effect of the proposed new tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) on schools. The proposed tariffs are designed to provide a 4.5% to 5% return on capital, which is in line with the original intention of the scheme and which should still be attractive for households and communities interested in installing solar PV, particularly in the current climate of record low interest rates.

The Government's current consultation on FITs for solar PV seeks views on whether more could be done to enable genuine community projects to achieve real benefits from FITs and whether, for example, a definition of community scheme is required and, if so, how this should be defined. We will provide more detail on FITs for community-based schemes as part of phase 2 of the comprehensive review.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on feed-in tariff rates for school buildings in *(a)* France and *(b)* Italy. [79337]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The Department does not hold any information on feed-in tariff rates for school buildings in France or Italy.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Climate Change of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 613-14, on feed-in tariffs, what impact assessment he has made in relation to the number of community schemes that are currently in progress but will not proceed as a result of his proposals and the 12 December deadline. [79852]

Gregory Barker: The new tariffs proposed in consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV are intended to provide a return on capital of 4.5% to 5% for well-sited installations. These returns should still be attractive for householders and communities, particularly in the current climate of record low interest rates. The impact assessment supporting the consultation assesses the impacts of the consultation proposals and estimates that solar PV installations will continue to come forward. These installations could include community projects although the impact assessment does not provide detailed estimates on installation types.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on provision of support to businesses to meet the obligations arising from implementation of the measures in phase 1 of the comprehensive review of feed-in tariffs. [79890]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) estimates that new solar PV installations will continue to come forward under the proposed changes to FITs for solar PV. The number of installations is expected to be around 30,000 per year for the rest of the spending review period.

The proposals in the consultation are intended to support a sustainable solar PV industry while minimising the costs to consumers from excessive levels of support. The proposed energy efficiency requirement will also offer new opportunities to businesses, by driving the installation of energy efficiency measures.

The Government do not intend to provide specific financial support to help businesses meet any costs arising from the comprehensive review.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to potential adverse weather conditions in the implementation of the measures in phase 1 of the comprehensive review of feed-in tariffs. [79891]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* On 31 October 2011, the Government published a consultation setting out proposed new tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) under the feed-in tariffs scheme. The consultation proposes that new tariffs will be implemented from 1 April 2012 but will apply to all new PV installations with an eligibility date on or after a proposed "reference date" of 12 December 2011.

The consultation specifically asks for views on whether the proposed reference date should be 12 December 2011 or some other date. We will consider all representations made during the consultation in response to this and other questions, including any citing adverse weather conditions as a factor that may have prevented installations from proceeding in the period prior to the proposed reference date.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Climate Change of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 607, on feed-in tariffs, what assessment he has made of the potential savings to energy consumers as a result of the reductions in feed-in tariff subsidies; and what methodology his Department used to determine that figure. [79902]

Gregory Barker: An impact assessment has been published to support the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV). This includes an assessment of the impacts of the consultation proposals on domestic energy bills. Under our proposals, the impact of the feed-in tariff on annual consumer energy bills in 2020 is estimated to be around £3 per year, compared to £26 if we kept the tariffs at their current levels. The impact assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Climate Change of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 609, on feed-in tariffs, when he last met representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises to discuss *(a)* energy and climate change policy generally and *(b)* feed-in tariffs. [79905]

Charles Hendry: Ministers meet SMEs in all relevant sectors frequently. Details of meetings held between DECC Ministers and external parties are published on the Department's website on a quarterly basis.

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) recently hosted a stakeholder round-table on the FITs consultation which included representatives of SMEs.

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on *(a)* the rates paid, *(b)* the length of time the scheme operated, *(c)* installed capacity and *(d)* the average change in power bills for feed-in tariff schemes in other EU member states. [80042]

Gregory Barker: The structure of support for renewable energy varies considerably across European Union (EU) member states, so the schemes cannot be compared directly with each other.

The Department collects information on the schemes in a number of member states, but not in the form requested. Tariffs have been reduced recently in Germany, France, Spain, Italy and Belgium in the face of global falling costs for solar photovoltaic (PV) technology. Our proposed tariff of 21p for domestic scale installations (=4 kW) is similar to the rate offered in Germany.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to provide exceptions for *(a)* schools, *(b)* housing associations, *(c)* community centres and *(d)* community projects from the feed-in tariffs which are due to commence after 12 December 2011. [80314]

Gregory Barker: The Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) includes proposals for new tariffs that would apply from 1 April 2012 to all new PV installations which become eligible for FITs on or after 12 December 2011. We will consider all representations received in response to the consultation on these proposals.

The Government are also considering whether more could be done to enable genuine community projects to be able to fully benefit from FITs. We will provide more detail on this in a second consultation on the comprehensive review which will be published around the end of the year.

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what savings he expects to arise from his planned changes to feed-in tariffs. [80376]

Charles Hendry: An impact assessment has been published to support the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV). This includes an assessment of the impacts of the consultation proposals on the subsidy costs of the FITs scheme and on annual average domestic energy bills.

Under our proposals, the estimated subsidy costs of solar PV under FITs will be £250 million to £280 million (nominal, undiscounted) in 2014-15. This compares to an estimated cost of £1 billion (nominal, undiscounted) in 2014-15 if we did nothing. This difference in costs translates to a saving on annual average domestic energy bills in 2020 of £23 (2010 prices, undiscounted). The impact assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-ia-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Renewable Energy: Heating

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how the renewable heat premium payment is to be targeted at households living in fuel poverty. [79988]

Charles Hendry: As part of the £15 million renewable heat premium payment scheme, £3 million was set aside for registered providers of social housing to compete for funds to install renewable heating systems into homes of social tenants, particularly for those at risk of fuel poverty.

We will announce the details of the winning bidders shortly. Given the high level of interest and quality of bids received, we have increased the budget to £4 million to allow more projects to be supported. The main aim of the successful projects is the installation of renewable heat technologies to replace expensive fuel off the gas grid, helping to reduce fuel bills for the tenants, focusing on those in fuel poverty.

Scottish and Southern Energy

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with representatives of Scottish and Southern Energy on their proposals to reform the sale of energy on the day-ahead market. [79846]

Charles Hendry: Ministers meet and attend functions with energy companies on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues. Quarterly lists of DECC Ministers' meetings that involve outside interested parties are published on the DECC website, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Solar Power

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the solar industry survey published by the Renewable Energy Association and Solar Trade Association on 8 November 2011; and if he will ensure that the survey's conclusions on *(a)* estimated employment levels in the solar industry, *(b)* closure of firms providing solar photovoltaic systems and *(c)* the effect of feed-in tariff charges on social housing tenants are incorporated into his Department's consultation process. [80919]

Charles Hendry: I welcome the contribution that the REA and STA continue to make to FITs policy development, and I am pleased they were both able to attend the stakeholder round-table which the Minister of State for Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker), hosted on 10 November 2011. Their recent survey was discussed at this event and will be considered along with other representations received through the FITs consultation.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of UK solar companies *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each parliamentary constituency. [80973]

Charles Hendry: The current number of solar PV installation companies certified under the microgeneration certification scheme is 3,241. The Department does not hold the information by parliamentary constituency; however, the regional breakdown is as follows:

Regions	*PV companies*
Yorkshire Humberside	284
North East	131
North West	335
South East	687
South West	476
East Midlands	313
West Midlands	295
East England	246
London	77
Isle of Wight	7
Isle of Man	1
Scotland	162
Wales	214
Northern Ireland	12

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has held with representatives of the UK solar industry since May 2010. [81080]

Gregory Barker: Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

During the development of our proposals for the feed-in tariff comprehensive review phase 1 consultation, I and other Ministers met a number of representatives of the solar power industry.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what modelling his Department has carried out on the effect of the proposed generation tariffs for solar photovoltaic energy on the rate of return. [79201]

Charles Hendry: The proposed tariffs are intended to provide a rate of return on capital of approximately 4.5% to 5% for well sited installations.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Climate Change of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 609-10, on feed-in tariffs, what estimate he has made of the number of solar PV community schemes which will not go ahead as a result of reductions in the subsidy available under the feed-in-tariff scheme. [79850]

Gregory Barker: The new tariffs proposed in consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV are intended to provide a return on capital of 4.5% to 5% for well-sited installations. These returns should still be attractive for householders and communities, particularly in the current climate of record low interest rates. The impact assessment supporting the consultation assesses the impacts of the consultation proposals and estimates that solar PV installations will continue to come forward. These installations could include community projects although the impact assessment does not provide detailed estimates on installation types.

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he undertook an assessment of the effect on existing orders and contracts for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations when setting 12 December as the date for the introduction of the reduced solar PV feed-in tariffs. [79856]

Gregory Barker: The proposed changes will not take effect from 12 December 2011. The new tariffs will come into force from 1 April 2012 but the Government's proposal is that they should apply from that date to all new PV installations which become eligible for FITs on or after 12 December 2011.

The principal reason for the proposed approach is the urgency of the concerns about the impact on the scheme's budget of continuing high levels of uptake at the current tariffs. The proposals are designed to strike a balance between the need for quick action and the desire to allow people an opportunity to finish work that is well under way. The proposed six-week period will allow many prospective generators who have made a financial commitment to installing PV (for example, paying a deposit) to do this.

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he undertook an assessment of the effect on investment in the solar photovoltaic (PV) industry as a result of the proposed reductions in solar PV tariffs. [79857]

Charles Hendry: An impact assessment has been published to support the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV). This sets out the impact on generation and employment of the changes proposed in the consultation. The impact assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-ia-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what methodology his Department used to determine the reference date of 12 December 2011 for eligibility for the feed-in tariff scheme for solar photovoltaic installations. [79901]

Charles Hendry: The Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) proposes that the new tariffs will come into force from 1 April 2012 but apply to all new installations which become eligible for FITs on or after a proposed "reference date" of 12 December 2011.

The principal reason for the proposed approach is the urgency of the concerns about the impact on the scheme's budget, and therefore on consumers' energy bills, of continuing high levels of uptake at the current tariffs. The proposed reference date is six weeks after publication of the consultation and is designed to strike a balance between the need for quick action and the desire to allow people an opportunity to finish work that is well under way.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Climate Change of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 607 and 613, on feed-in tariffs, what assessment he has made of the reduction in the cost of solar photovoltaic installations; and what methodology his Department used to determine that assessment. [79903]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment supporting the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) sets out estimates of PV installation costs for different sizes of installations. They are based on a report from Cambridge Economic Policy Associates and Parsons Brinckerhoff which was published alongside the impact assessment and is available at:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3365-updates-to-fits-model-doc.pdf

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Climate Change of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 608, on feed-in tariffs, what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* jobs in the solar industry and *(b)* solar photovoltaic installations in (i) the UK and (ii) Germany. [79904]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that, based on the number of solar photovoltaic installations by the end of October 2011, around 8,000 to 14,000 gross full-time equivalent jobs have been supported by solar PV since the introduction of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. The total number of people doing some solar PV work is likely to be higher than this range because those who are involved in solar PV installations are also likely to undertake other tasks linked to their employment. We have not made any estimates of employment in the German PV sector.

Data on solar PV installations in Germany are published by the IEA. These data cover capacity only and show that at the end of 2009 9,800 MW had been installed in Germany.

Data for the UK are published monthly on the DECC website:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

At the end of October 2011 329 MW of solar PV had been confirmed on to the FIT scheme. Data from the microgeneration certification scheme (MCS) register suggest that a further 96 MW of small scale (sub-50 kW) has been installed but has not yet registered for FITs. Data from the MCS should be seen as an indicator of early activity. There is no guarantee that all schemes will be confirmed onto FITs.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effect on investment in the UK solar industry of a reduction in the feed-in tariff for solar photovoltaic installations before 31 March 2012. [79993]

Charles Hendry: An Impact Assessment has been published to support the consultation on Feed-in Tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV). This sets out the impact in generation and employment of the changes proposed in the consultation. The Impact Assessment is available at:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3364-fits-scheme-consultation-doc.pdf

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the estimated cost in the current comprehensive spending review period would be of moving the reference date for the new solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs from 12 December 2011 to 1 April 2012. [80429]

Gregory Barker: The Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV which can be found at:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

estimates the range of costs to consumers for a Reference Date of 12 December 2011 (Option 2) and a Reference Date of 1 April 2012 (Option 3). The difference between these two options in cost to consumers over the current comprehensive spending review period ranges from £60 million to £430 million under different uptake scenarios, with a central estimate of £190 million (costs in 2011 prices, discounted).

With no change to tariffs, under central uptake scenarios the Impact Assessment shows that FITs would increase annual household electricity bills by around £26 per year in 2020; under high growth scenarios this figure would be in the order of £55 per year in 2020.

There is considerable uncertainty around future bill impacts of FITs as solar PV costs have declined rapidly to date and hence future costs (and therefore uptake) are uncertain.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of a reduction in solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs of *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent., *(c)* 30 per cent. and *(d)* 40 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [80430]

Gregory Barker: The Government are currently consulting on proposals to reduce feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. The proposed new tariffs have been set in the light of information from the comprehensive review. This includes evidence that, since the FITs scheme started, PV costs have fallen by at least 30% and retail electricity prices have increased by 13%. In the light of this, the proposed new tariffs are intended to provide a 4.5% to 5% return on capital for a well sited installation which is similar to the target return for solar PV when the FITs were first introduced. Higher tariffs would result in higher returns than ever intended for solar PV under FITs. The Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation provides further details of how the assessment was made, which was not on the same basis as that set out in the question.

The consultation closes on 23 December 2011 and we will consider all representations received.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on the income of solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing and installation companies of the proposed reductions in solar PV feed-in tariffs. [80431]

Gregory Barker: The Impact Assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) estimates that new solar PV installations will continue to come forward under the proposed changes to FITs for solar PV. The number of installations is expected to be between 70% and 95% less for different tariff bands than under the "Do Nothing scenario". The Impact Assessment does not estimate the specific impact of this, or the potential new business opportunities arising from the consultation proposals on energy efficiency, on the income of solar PV manufacturing and installation companies.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on future levels in investment in the solar photovoltaic (PV) industry as a result of the proposed reductions in solar PV tariffs. [80432]

Gregory Barker: An Impact Assessment has been published to support the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV). This sets out the expected impact on generation, and on employment, of the changes proposed in the consultation. The Impact Assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-ia-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what budget has been allocated for exemptions from the proposed implementation date for the reduced solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs. [80433]

Gregory Barker: The consultation seeks views on the tariffs and on the proposed approach to implementing them. We will consider all representations made prior to finalising the policy.

Solar Power: Finance

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of photovoltaic installations which will benefit from payments for his Department have *(a)* involved no intermediary and *(b)* involved an intermediary company; and which 10 companies have been responsible for the greatest number of installations. [79879]

Charles Hendry: We do not hold information on intermediaries.

Information on the 10 companies responsible for the largest number of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations of up to 50kW capacity is available from the Microgeneration Certification Scheme database. Listed alphabetically, these companies are:

A Shade Greener Ltd
AVC Energy Ltd
British Gas Solar Ltd
Clear Air Solutions UK Ltd
EAGA Clean Energy Ltd (EAGA Clean Energy)
Ecosparx Ltd
House Choice Ltd
Mark Group Ltd
PV Solar UK Ltd
Solarcentury Holdings Ltd.

Solar Power: Manpower

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of people employed in the solar industry; [79093]

(2) whether his Department has forecast future levels of employment in the solar industry. [79094]

Charles Hendry: We estimate that, based on the number of solar photovoltaic installations by the end of October 2011, around 8,000 to 14,000 gross full-time equivalent jobs have been supported by solar PV since the introduction of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. The total number of people doing some solar PV work is likely to be higher than this range because those who are involved in solar PV installations are also likely to undertake other tasks linked to their employment.

An impact assessment has been published to support the consultation on FITs for solar PV. This includes an assessment of the economic impacts of the consultation proposals, including the impact on jobs. The impact assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-ia-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Wind Power

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind turbines have been constructed in each year since 2005. [80370]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the number of wind turbines installed and operational each year from 2005. All data are sourced from the renewable energy planning database which tracks the progress of renewable electricity projects in the United Kingdom from inception, through planning, construction and operational phases, and is updated on a monthly basis.[1,2]

[1] https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database/

[2] Data include resubmitted applications but exclude many small-scale, micro-generation sites, typically of less than 50 kW installed capacity.

	Number of onshore	*Capacity of onshore (MW)*	*Number of offshore*	*Capacity of offshore (MW)*
2005	321	428	30	90
2006	216	434	30	90
2007	290	555	27	100
2008	316	588	54	194
2009	258	422	103	353
2010	336	614	130	390
2011[1]	100	188	51	184

[1] As at end September 2011.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to implement the non-domestic permitted development rights for small wind systems. [79000]

Charles Hendry: The Department for Communities and Local Government are currently reviewing the scope for permitted development rights for microgeneration installations on non domestic premises, including small wind turbines. They will announce their plans for England only, as planning is a devolved matter, in due course.

HEALTH

Abortion: Northern Ireland

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on access by women in Northern Ireland to NHS abortion services in the rest of the UK. [79754]

Anne Milton: Women travelling from Northern Ireland seeking an abortion in England, under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, make their own arrangements and pay for their abortion privately.

Air Pollution

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the national health service is of treating health conditions resulting from PM_{10} exceedances in London in each year since 2005. [80446]

Anne Milton: We are not aware of any estimate of treatment costs to the national health service for conditions resulting from PM_{10} exceedances in London in each year since 2005.

Ambulance Services: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on ambulance response times in Warrington of the transfer of emergency patients between Warrington and Chester in the event that a South Mersey vascular centre is based in Chester; [80804]

(2) what assessment he has made of the additional resources which would be required by the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust in the event that it was required to transfer emergency patients to a vascular centre in Chester and continue to meet the required response times in Warrington; [80805]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of deaths consequent on the loss of immediate support for iatrogenic vascular injury in other surgical procedures and specialties performing invasive procedures in Warrington Hospital in the event that the South Mersey vascular centre is located in Chester. [80806]

Mr Simon Burns: Vascular services across the national health service in England are being reviewed locally. This is in response to the growing clinical evidence base that provides a strong case for providing vascular surgery services in fewer more specialised centres or networks to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

Decisions about the provision of local health services, including vascular services, are a matter for the local NHS. As such no assessment has been made by the Department.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review Project Board is leading a review of vascular surgery services in Cheshire and Merseyside which will be subject to public consultation in due course.

Information on the proposed changes to vascular services in Cheshire and Merseyside can be obtained from Kathy Doran, Chief Executive of the Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral Primary Care Trust cluster board.

Arthritis: Physiotherapy

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1041-2W, on physiotherapy: arthritis, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of proposed NHS reforms on trends in patient self-referral to physiotherapy services for people with *(a)* rheumatoid arthritis and *(b)* other long-term conditions; and if he will make a statement. [79825]

Paul Burstow: It is for local national health service organisations to make their own decisions about routes of referral for physiotherapy, based on which route is clinically appropriate and of value to the health care system and local community.

Both the "Self-referral pilots to musculoskeletal physiotherapy and the implications for improving access to other AHP services" and the "Allied Health Professions Service Improvement Project" referred to in the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1041-42W, provide examples of the benefits of patient self-referral to physiotherapy as part of the service redesign.

Baby Care Units

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed in each neonatal unit in each of the last three years. [81057]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mortality rates were in each neonatal unit in each of the last three years. [81058]

Anne Milton: This information is not available centrally.

Since 2009, the Neonatal Data Analysis Unit (NDAU) has published data on the number of deaths by neonatal network code. Deaths are recorded by neonatal network, rather than neonatal unit, because babies are transferred between units. Published data are set out in the following table. Note that the 2008 data (absolute numbers) are not available. The 2009 and 2010 data are not directly comparable. Data coverage for 2010 were improved, but coverage for both years is incomplete. The data are therefore not representative of the total number of deaths that occurred. From 2011 onward, NDAU plan to publish statistics by network name.

	Number of babies in neonatal care (<33 weeks gestational age)		*Observed deaths*	
Network code	*2009*	*2010*	*2009*	*2010*
100011[1]	287	267	22	28
100012	280	264	19	20
100059[2]	443	615	39	57
100070[3]	266	385	15	32
100071[3]	327	423	13	29
100078	205	288	8	20
100088[2]	261	262	11	14
100106	307	284	25	17
100107[3]	164	—	12	—
100108[3]	248	602	20	59
100109[3]	261	404	12	31
100110[2]	15	188	1	19
100111[1]	—	122	—	16
100113[1]	—	25	—	5
100115[2]	397	519	43	36
100118[3]	160	207	7	14
100142[2]	286	560	20	35
100150[1]	406	297	34	19
100162[1]	287	146	33	11
100196[3]	362	413	23	27
100208[2]	346	484	22	42
100209[1]	—	231	—	28
100210[2]	131	329	11	23
100524	412	383	40	23

[1] Not all the neonatal units within the network have provided data for 2010.
[2] Not all the neonatal units within the network have provided data for 2009-10.
[3] Not all the neonatal units within the network have provided data for 2009.
Notes:
1. Number of neonatal deaths (<33 weeks gestation at birth) by neonatal network of booking 1 in England, 2009, 2010
2. Determined by intended place of delivery.
Source:
Neonatal Data Analysis Unit (NDAU), Imperial College.

Further information about the NDAU's work can be obtained from the NDAU Division of Medicine, Imperial College London, Academic Department of Neonatal Medicine, 4th Floor, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, 369 Fulham Road, London SW10 9NH.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80054]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of all ministerial meetings with external parties are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. Data from 1 January 2010 up to the end of March 2011 can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

No data are held prior to this date. No special advisers have met with the Bell Pottinger Group or its subsidiaries. No data are held prior to 13 May 2010. Information on whether officials have met with the Bell Pottinger Group or its subsidiaries could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust: Neurology

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will conduct a review of neurosurgery at the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [80587]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has no plans to conduct a review of neurosurgery at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust. We are aware that the trust is working to improve services for patients as part of long term plans to move neuroscience services from the Princess Royal hospital, Haywards Heath to a new purpose built site at the Royal Sussex County hospital, Brighton and that the trust has undertaken to keep the right hon. Member informed.

Cannabis: Mental Illness

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has established any link between use of skunk cannabis and admissions to acute mental health services; and if he will make a statement. [80499]

Anne Milton: The Department commissioned a systematic review of studies in this area. The peer-reviewed results of this review were published in the Lancet in

July 2007 and confirmed the increased evidence of an association, possibly causal, between prior cannabis use and later development of psychosis and schizophrenia with a 40% increase in risk reported (up to 200% increase for at-risk heavy users).

With funding from DH, the Centre for Public Health and School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences at Liverpool John Moores university produced a report summarising recent research evidence on the health harms of drugs, including cannabis. The report, 'A Summary of the Health Harms of Drugs', was published in August 2011. This report summarises the links between cannabis and mental health problems as a small but significantly increased risk of psychotic symptoms and disorders later in life and a complex association between cannabis use and schizophrenia.

The Government's advisory committee on drugs, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, carried out a substantial review of the harms associated with cannabis use, including the physical and psychological effects of cannabis.

Their report, 'Cannabis: Classification and Public Health' (2008), copies of which have already been placed in the Library, found a probable but weak causal link between psychotic illness and cannabis use.

Clinical Commissioning Groups

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what basis the budget allocations to shadow clinical commissioning groups were calculated for *(a)* commissioning services and *(b)* running costs in 2012-13; [79638]

(2) what steps he plans to take to allocate resources to shadow clinical commissioning groups for the purposes of reducing health inequalities; [79639]

(3) what plans he has for developing the weighted capitation formula for NHS commissioning. [79640]

Mr Simon Burns: Shadow allocations to clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) for 2012-13 will be published later this year. The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has asked the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation, an independent committee including general practitioners, national health service managers, public health experts and academics, to continue to advise on the distribution of NHS resources, including allocations made to CCGs.

We are currently making an assessment of the existing cost of functions undertaken by primary care trusts and strategic health authorities which will be the responsibility of CCGs in the future.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, from 2013-14, the NHS Commissioning Board would be responsible for the allocation of resources to CCGs.

The Board would allocate resources to CCGs in a way that supports the principle of securing equivalent access to NHS services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability. How these allocations are determined would be a matter for the Board, but they will have a duty to have regard to reducing inequalities in access to, and the outcomes from health care.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely extent of *(a)* over- and *(b)* under-spending by NHS commissioners in 2011-12. [79641]

Mr Simon Burns: At the end of quarter one of 2011-12, there were three primary care trusts (PCTS) forecasting an aggregate deficit between them, of £56 million. These were Haringey PCT (£20 million), Enfield PCT (£19 million) and Barnet PCT (£17 million).

At the end of quarter one of 2011-12, there were 148 PCTs forecasting an aggregate surplus between them, of £517 million.

This means that PCTs were forecasting a net aggregate surplus of £461 million.

The Department is ensuring that the organisations forecasting a deficit have plans in place for financial recovery, while continuing to improve the quality of services to patients.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the additional administrative costs for NHS commissioners in areas with poor health; [79642]

(2) what methodology his Department used in calculating the proposed running cost allocations for shadow clinical commissioning groups. [79720]

Mr Simon Burns: Shadow allocations to clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) for 2012-13 will be published later this year. The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has asked the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocations, an independent committee including general practitioners, national health service managers, public health experts and academics, to continue to advise on the distribution of NHS resources, including allocations made to CCGs.

We are currently making an assessment of the existing cost of functions undertaken by primary care trusts and strategic health authorities which will be the responsibility of CCGs in the future.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, from 2013-14, the NHS Commissioning Board would be responsible for the allocation of resources to CCGs.

The Board would allocate resources to CCGs in a way that supports the principle of securing equivalent access to NHS services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability. How these allocations are determined would be a matter for the Board, but they will have a duty to have regard to reducing inequalities in access to, and the outcomes from health care.

Dental Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of dentists on NHS dental treatment. [79871]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has had no discussions with dental representatives in the last three months. The Under-Secretary of State for Health, my noble Friend Earl Howe, who leads on dentistry within the ministerial team, has visited a dental practice, the Collins House Dental Practice in Hereford, and met with the practice dentists.

Consultants

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the correction to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 192-3W, on departmental management consultants, how many NHS bodies excluding foundation trusts, were counted in the expenditure on consulting in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [80907]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows for the financial years from 2007-08 to 2010-11, (1) the total number of NHS Bodies (excluding, foundation trusts) which existed in the years 2007-08 to 2010-11 and (2) of those organisations, how many reported spend on consultancy expenditure.

	NHS bodies (excluding foundation trusts)	*Number of NHS bodies who provided data on consultancy expenditure*
2010-11	277	275
2009-10	283	282
2008-09	311	308
2007-08	340	323

Equal Opportunities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to promote equality of opportunity for its employees. [79916]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health has a number of strategies and policies in place to promote equality of opportunity. These include the Single Equality Scheme; a Diversity Delivery Plan; an equal opportunities statement; and a range of human resources and diversity-specific policies that are designed to promote and embed equality considerations in all decision-making processes and ways of working (including those covering desired behaviours).

All relevant policies and practices are assessed for the impact on equality. All strategies, policies and initiatives are communicated to staff, using a range of media, including face-to-face team briefings

Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many flags his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains; and at what annual cost to the public purse. [79915]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department owns one Union flag which flies 365 days of the year, from the flagpole at its official headquarters, building, Richmond house, Whitehall. The flag is replaced depending on condition as required. The annual costs are £220.00 (excluding VAT and carriage costs).

Departmental Website

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many unique hits his Department's website received in each of the last 12 months. [79918]

Mr Simon Burns: The total number of page impressions received on the Department's website in the past 12 months is 46,728,836.

This breaks down across the past 12 months as follows:

	Number
November 2010	4,317,636
December 2010	3,755,603
January 2011	4,633,141
February 2011	4,062,242
March 2011	4,571,770
April 2011	3,661,640
May 2011	4,020,920
June 2011	3,596,999
July 2011	3,380,049
August 2011	3,182,578
September 2011	3,410,391
October 2011	4,135,867

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what social media his Department uses. [79925]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department uses the following social media channels:

Twitter;

YouTube;

Flickr; and

Facebook.

Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 his Department employs. [79920]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department employs 344 people aged 55 years and over and, of these, 10 people are aged 65 years and over.

Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 months. [79942]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department issued 362 press releases between 1 November 2010 and 31 October 2011.

Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to standardise the procedure for referral to specialist care for those admitted to emergency care following episodes of hypoglycaemia. [R] [80248]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard for Diabetes, published earlier this year, specifically includes the quality statement that people with diabetes who have experienced hypoglycaemia requiring medical attention are referred to a specialist diabetes team.

The Quality Standards provide authoritative definitions of good quality care, for use by clinicians and commissioners. It is for the national health service to have regard to these Quality Standards.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the level of implementation by primary care trusts of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the use of patient education models for diabetes. [R] [80249]

Paul Burstow: We do not collect centrally the data that would allow such an assessment of implementation to be made.

However, it is important that people with diabetes do receive structured education and support as part of their care. The NHS Operating Framework 2011-12 specifically states that primary care trusts should be commissioning the relevant structured patient education to support people newly diagnosed with diabetes and at appropriate points in their life as their condition progresses.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve access to specialist healthcare support for diabetics in care homes; and if he will make a statement. [R] [80250]

Paul Burstow: It is for local national health service organisations to commission a comprehensive service for all people with diabetes, including access to specialist health care.

Diabetes management in care homes continues to pose significant challenges to health and social care professionals in the provision of high quality, safe and effective care. We welcome work undertaken in 2010 by a Task and Finish Group of Diabetes UK, led by Professor Alan Sinclair, which produced 'Good clinical practice guidelines for care home residents with diabetes'. The need for specialist input is an important recommendation of this national guidance.

The guidance is available on the Diabetes UK website at:

www.diabetes.org.uk/Documents/About%20Us/Our%20 views/Care%20recs/Care-homes-0110.pdf

In addition to the work listed above, the Older People's Steering Group of NHS Diabetes, chaired by Professor Sinclair, has been involved in undertaking a large diabetes audit within care homes during the previous 12 months. While this audit shows evidence of variation in the quality of care, a lack of knowledge of diabetes among care home staff, and absence of specific diabetes policies, there does appear to be enthusiasm within care homes to enhance the quality of care and to be more engaged in promoting training and education of staff. A number of initiatives are taking place to look at the risk of hypoglycaemia and medication errors in care homes, as well as developing a national course to educate care home staff in some aspects of diabetes management.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage the recruitment of diabetes-specialist nurses in primary care settings. [R] [80251]

Paul Burstow: The Government consider that diabetes specialist nurses are an essential part of the diabetes specialist team and have a valuable part to play in supporting people with diabetes.

It is for local national health service organisations to commission a comprehensive service for people with diabetes, including access to specialist health care. It is local health care organisations, with their knowledge of the health care needs of their local populations, that are also best placed to determine the work force required to deliver safe patient care within their available resources.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage the provision of lifestyle management techniques education to *(a)* those with diabetes and *(b)* those at risk of developing diabetes. [R] [80252]

Paul Burstow: Type 1 diabetes is not currently preventable. type 2 diabetes is closely linked to lifestyle factors such as being overweight or physical inactivity.

For those people who have been diagnosed with diabetes, guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) emphasise the importance of patient education. This is reflected in the NICE Quality Standard for Diabetes. The 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework also signals the need to commission patient structured education for people newly diagnosed with diabetes and at appropriate points in their life as their condition progresses.

The Government recently published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England", which sets out our commitment to key programmes such as Change4Life and the NHS Health Check.

In July 2011, the chief medical officer also published revised physical activity guidelines. The guidelines set out clear recommendations on the amount of physical activity people need to do to benefit their health, and how it can fit into their daily lives. The report includes evidence to show that there is a 30 to 40% lower risk of type 2 diabetes in at least moderately active people compared with those who are sedentary.

NICE also recently published guidance entitled "Preventing type 2 diabetes: population and community-level interventions in high-risk groups and the general population". A second piece of guidance on type 2 diabetes, looking at interventions aimed at individuals at high risk, is due to be published in May 2012.

Diabetes: Admissions

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the effect on *(a)* in-patient admission times and *(b)* costs to the NHS of introducing diabetes inpatient specialist nurse services. [R] [80230]

Paul Burstow: In October NHS Diabetes published, 'Inpatient care for people with diabetes: the economic case for change', which summarised evidence showing that specialist diabetes in-patient teams can improve the quality of patient care and reduce national health service costs by lowering the incidence of adverse events, cutting lengths of stay,, reducing admission and readmission rates, and increasing day case rates.

All in-patients with diabetes should have access to diabetes specialists and receive the treatment they need to avoid longer stays and readmissions, which have significant cost implications for the NHS. Initiatives such as the National Diabetes Inpatient Audit are key to identifying areas for improvement, and developing a better understanding of the issues faced by people with diabetes while in hospital.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that secondary care staff are trained in the appropriate discharge procedures for patients with diabetes and that such procedures are applied to all patients with diabetes including cases where diabetes was not the primary cause of admission. [R] [80247]

Paul Burstow: Appropriate discharge from hospital is an important element of the care of people with diabetes and requires good communication between secondary, primary and community health care services. The 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework specifically highlights the need for National Health Service providers to consider the overall management of in-patients with diabetes. In addition the NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) Quality Standard for Diabetes emphasises the overall importance of integrated diabetes care and specifies care for readmission prevention for patients admitted with glucose emergencies.

The content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies. Through their role as the custodians of quality standards in education and practice, these organisations are committed to ensuring high quality patient care delivered by high quality health professionals and that health care professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice.

Diabetes: Nurses

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses in diabetes mellitus there are; and how much was spent on their salaries and associated costs in the latest period for which figure are available. [80465]

Mr Simon Burns: The current number of diabetic specialist nurses employed by the national health service is not collected centrally. The salary costs for diabetes nurses are not available because the salary costs for nursing are not broken down into specialist nursing areas.

Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department have been disciplined for misconduct related to drug use in the last 12 months. [79865]

Mr Simon Burns: No official of the Department has been managed through the disciplinary process for misconduct relating to drug use in the last 12 months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on mandatory drug testing of its employees. [79919]

Mr Simon Burns: The roles and functions within the Department do not require testing of this nature. In circumstances in which employees on secondment are subject to random drug testing, because they have practitioner roles in their parent organisations, these tests are carried out by that organisation.

The Department has health and well-being policies in place for those employees who need support because of substance misuse. Practical support is available in the form of an employee assistance programme and occupational health provision.

Health Services: Older People

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many unplanned hospital admissions for people aged 65 years and over there were, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* NHS commissioner in each month in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11 and (iv) 2011 to date. [80425]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not have data in the format requested but does have data with a count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) where the age of the patient is 65 or over; by month, primary care trust of responsibility and local authority of residence for the years 2008-09 to 2011-12. Data for 2011-12 are provisional and only for the months April to June inclusive.

It should be noted that the information on FAEs is not a count of patients as a patient may have been admitted more than once during the period stated. The footnotes contain further information which should be used when interpreting the data.

This information has been placed in the Library.

Source:

NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list each payment due from EU countries and Switzerland to the UK for NHS treatment for their nationals made in each financial year from 1999-2000 to 2009-10. [80220]

Anne Milton: The following table shows total payments made by member states of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland, to the United Kingdom, for health care benefits in kind under European social security regulations in the financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11. Comparable data for earlier years are not available.

EEA medical costs—Payments to UK 2007-08 to 2010-11[1,2]

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Austria	0	30,000	48,000	145,000
Belgium[3]	4,682,000	2,820,000	1,743,000	931,000

EEA medical costs—Payments to UK 2007-08 to 2010-11[1,2]

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	£ *2010-11*
Bulgaria[4]	0	0	0	0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	2,000	78,000	35,000
Denmark (Waiver)[5]	0	0	0	0
Estonia (Waiver)[6]	0	0	0	0
Finland (Waiver)[7]	0	0	2,000	0
France	2,164,000	5,224,000	6,545,000	1,768,000
Germany	1,120,000	94,000	546,000	2,916,000
Greece	175,000	864,000	246,000	269,000
Hungary (Waiver)[7]	11,000	8,000	38,000	0
Iceland	42,000	0	25,000	19,000
Ireland[3]	19,004,000	19,560,000	22,723,000	20,229,000
Italy[8]	4,655,000	0	672,000	19,517,000
Latvia	0	0	0	11,000
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	5,000
Luxembourg	0	0	0	10,000
Malta (Waiver)[7]	0	0	0	0
Netherlands[3]	0	0	6,581,000	0
Norway (Waiver)[6]	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	374,000
Portugal	29,000	18,000	152,000	39,000
Romania[4]	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	22,000
Slovenia	0	6,000	61,000	270,000
Spain	106,000	4,226,000	158,000	1,631,000
Sweden	951,000	280,000	865,000	3,334,000
Switzerland	9,000	0	38,000	211,000
Total	32,900,000	33,100,000	40,500,000	51,700,000

[1] Comparable data for years prior to 2007-08 cannot be provided as it would incur disproportionate cost.

[2] Country totals are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Overall totals are rounded to the nearest 100,000. Sub-totals may not add up to totals due to rounding.

[3] Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands. Totals includes amounts offset for the value of certain UK claims as provided for by the bilateral agreements with those countries.

[4] Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union on 1 January 2007. Both countries have yet to produce average costs therefore there are no claims to date from either country.

[5] Denmark—Full waiver.

[6] Estonia and Norway—Waiver, excepting Article 22.1c (patient referral) and Article 55.1c (industrial injury) claims.

[7] Finland, Hungary and Malta—Waiver, excepting Article 22.1c (patient referral) claims.

[8] Italy—Totals for 2007-08 include an exchange rate currency gain arising from the payment offset provisions of the former Italy-UK bilateral agreement. That agreement terminated on 31 December 2009. No payments were received in 2008-09.

Note:

Payments in any one year may relate to claims for one or more previous years, and can vary significantly based on when other member states pay a claim and when the UK submits the claims. Therefore significant variations from year to year are common.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the public purse has been of interest payments owed to other European Economic Area member states and Switzerland for outstanding health care claims made in each financial year between 1997-98 and 2009-10. [80238]

Anne Milton: As the provision for interest to be charged on claims for health care benefits in kind in Regulation 987/2009 entered into force on 1 May 2010, no interest was incurred or paid in the financial years 1997-98 to 2009-10.

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department gives to GP practices on the registration of people who are not ordinarily resident in the UK. [80584]

Mr Simon Burns: The concept of being ordinarily resident has no bearing on a person's eligibility to receive primary care in England. It is up to the discretion of the general practitioner (GP) as to who he registers as a national health service patient, though he must have reasonable non-discriminatory grounds to refuse someone.

On 18 March 2011, the Government announced a further review regarding charging foreign nationals for NHS services. This will include consideration of whether GP services and other non-hospital NHS services should be charged for.

The review will be thorough and consultative, and will take full account of NHS values, public health needs and humanitarian obligations. We expect that developed proposals will be ready for further consultation during 2012. Following this, further guidance with regard to this issue wilt be published.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a new national service framework for cardiac services; [80861]

(2) what assessment he made of the merits of appointing a cardiac specialist to the NHS Commissioning Board; [80862]

(3) what plans he has for the future role of stroke clinical networks under his proposals for NHS reorganisation; [80863]

(4) when he expects to announce the appointment of the next National Clinical Director for Stroke. [80912]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have committed to embed and strengthen existing clinical networks and to use clinical networks to help ensure that a range of professionals play an integral part in continuously improving the quality of services and care for patients. A review of clinical networks is currently under way to consider the functions, structures and governance that will most effectively support commissioners to deliver improved quality and outcomes in the future. From April 2013, funding of clinical networks will be a decision for the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB).

Future arrangements for the provision of senior clinical advice and the development of clinical strategies are being discussed as part of developing the role of the NHS CB.

HIV Infection: EU Action

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the availability of HIV/AIDS treatments. [79868]

Anne Milton: Department of Health Ministers have had no formal discussions with their European Union counterparts on the availability of treatment for HIV and AIDS.

Hospitals: Consultants

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies of consultants in each of the next three years. [80160]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no estimate of the number of redundancies of consultants in each of the next three years.

Work force planning is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. They have to analyse their local situation, develop plans and take action to recruit the appropriate staff required to deliver high quality services.

The latest monthly work force statistics for July 2011 show that since May 2010 the number of consultants working in the national health service in England has increased by 1,412 (4.0%) to 36,586.

Hospitals: Hygiene

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails on antibiotic-resistant bacteria in hospitals he has received in the last 12 months. [79858]

Mr Simon Burns: A total of 32 letters and 12 e-mails relating to antibiotic-resistant bacteria in hospitals have been identified from the ministerial correspondence database for the last 12 months. Most of these included a reference to the existence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in hospitals rather than a focus on antibiotic resistance itself.

Influenza: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been issued with the influenza vaccine by the NHS in 2011 to date. [79864]

Anne Milton: As at 6 November, an estimated 8.3 million people have been vaccinated against seasonal flu by general practitioners in England since September 2011 as part of the national health service seasonal flu immunisation programme. Information on the number of healthcare workers vaccinated this season is not yet available, but will published on the Department's website.

Injuries: Dog Attacks

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to hospital for injuries caused by dog attacks in each strategic health authority area since June 2010; and what the estimated cost to the NHS is of such admissions. [81039]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is in the following table. Numbers of admissions from March 2011 are not yet available.

The information requested on the costs to the national health service is not collected centrally.

Number of finished admission episodes[1] with a cause code of bitten or struck by dog[2], by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence[3], June 2010 to March 2011

		2010							2011			
SHA	*Description*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	49	47	53	44	40	35	34	38	34	34	408
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	96	100	97	92	97	82	73	93	75	83	888
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	73	78	86	83	77	62	49	69	49	63	689
033	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	39	39	36	34	33	37	36	39	35	28	356
034	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	71	59	62	43	58	35	48	45	41	41	503
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	39	49	56	35	42	48	48	23	36	51	427
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	42	39	43	47	44	46	51	49	43	52	456
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	30	23	31	24	25	22	8	26	18	26	233
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	43	59	45	47	48	50	39	39	34	49	453
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	56	38	54	41	45	61	42	31	28	48	444

Number of finished admission episodes[1] with a cause code of bitten or struck by dog[2], by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence[3], June 2010 to March 2011

		2010							2011			
SHA	*Description*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
	Other/unknown	10	7	3	8	4	6	8	6	6	4	62

[1] Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] Cause code

A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in hospital episode statistics.

Cause code used:

W54—Bitten or struck by dog.

[3] SHA/primary care trust (PCT) of residence

The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

Note:

Activity included

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of former armed forces personnel who have experienced mental health problems in each of the last 10 years . [79722]

Mr Simon Burns: The fact that someone has served in the armed forces is not recorded within national health service information systems, so these figures are not available.

The Department is working closely with the Ministry of Defence to improve the information provided to general practitioners (GPs) on the discharge of forces personnel, so that veterans can be more easily identified.

The report, "Fighting Fit", published in October 2010, by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), was also focused on the improvement of mental health outcomes for veterans. One of its recommendations is that a 'Veterans Information Service' be established, which will follow veterans up to 12 months after leaving the forces and furnish the NHS with more information regarding their mental healthcare.

Lastly, the Department also recently developed and launched an e-learning package aimed at GPs, in conjunction with the Royal College of General Practitioners. The aim of this work is to better familiarise GPs with the specific needs and issues they may face as part of the ex-service community. There is a specific part of this course which focuses on mental health.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is available for community groups to assist veterans with mental health problems. [79774]

Mr Simon Burns: Over the past year, the Department has committed considerable resource towards the improvement of outcomes for veterans' mental health.

Dr Andrew Murrison's report, 'Fighting Fit', a mental health plan for servicemen and veterans, was published in October 2010 with the aim of improving outcomes for veterans in this area. The Government accepted all of Dr Murrison's recommendations and immediately announced that they would commit £7.2 million, over the four-year spending review period, to achieve his specified objectives.

During the course of 2009-11, the Department assisted in the set-up and functioning of 'Armed Forces Networks' in each strategic health authority area. The aim of these has been to bring together a partnership in each local area of any national health service, third sector, local government and other stakeholders with an interest in military and veterans' health and well-being. It has been by working in conjunction with these networks—operational within each local community—that the Department has been able to get the money out to take forward ground-breaking work in this important area.

The following is a summary of some of the type of work that has been taken forward:

Vulnerable Veterans and Adult Dependants: a fast-track mental health service in the north-west located at Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire. Since it was launched, specially-trained therapists taking referrals through the service have seen 2,000 patients and provided 1,300 hours of therapy to patients suffering from anxiety/ depression/ post-traumatic stress disorder. The service allows people to be seen within weeks.

Finchale College, based in Durham, provides customised programmes of vocational rehabilitation to those with disabilities for return to employment. The college has been working with veterans.

South-West Veterans' Mental Health Veterans' Partnership Service—developed in partnership with the South West Armed Forces Network, and Combat Stress, and supported by Help for Heroes. The service has a self-referral service where veterans can find help.

Veterans' mental health services are now being rolled out all over the country in conjunction with Armed Forces Networks and using departmental funding. For example, the North West's Military Veterans' Service was launched on 11 November 2011 in conjunction with the Armed Forces Network, and Pennine Care NHS Trust. Also, the charity 'London Timebank' launched the Shoulder to Shoulder pilot project in conjunction with Combat Stress. This is a peer mentoring project for ex-servicemen and women by other veterans who have successfully made the transition out into civilian life.

NHS

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the clinical effect of disruption of existing joint working arrangements between NHS trusts when establishing new clinical networks; and if he will make a statement. [80803]

Mr Simon Burns: No such assessment has been made. We expect any changes to the configuration of services to have regard to clinical effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.

NHS: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of primary care trusts (PCTs) progress towards target shares of resources under the weighted capitation formula; and what plans he has to reduce the distance from target of each PCT. [79721]

Mr Simon Burns: The distribution of funding used for 2011-12 PCT recurrent revenue allocations ensured all PCTs had growth to allow them to meet their ongoing commitments and meet the needs of their local populations. In spite of the financial pressures, we still managed to move those PCTs that are furthest away from target towards their target allocation. The most under-target PCT at the start of 2011-12 received growth of 4.2%, in its recurrent allocations, compared to an average of 2.2%. By the end of 2011-12, no PCT will be more than 7.2% below target.

Decisions about 2012-13 PCT revenue allocations have not yet been finalised.

Subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for the allocation of national health service resources and pace-of-change policy to clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). The board would be expected to allocate resources to CCGs in a way that supports the principle of securing equivalent access to NHS services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability. How these allocations and pace-of-change policy are determined would be a matter for the board.

NHS: Manpower

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS public health staff were in post in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [80913]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Pay

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses have been downbanded and *(b)* hospitals have downgraded staff in the last 12 months. [80159]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. It is for the national health service locally to decide on the number and payband of the staff they need to provide high quality, safe and effective services for patients.

NHS: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of members of the NHS Pension Scheme are *(a)* part-time, *(b)* full-time, *(c)* male, *(d)* female, *(e)* active members and *(f)* deferred members/pensioners. [80503]

Mr Simon Burns: Estimates based on data extracted from the electronic staff record in March 2011 show the following information:

(a) The proportion of hospital and community health services staff working part-time is 35%.

(b) The proportion of hospital and community health services staff working full-time is 65%.

Information from the NHS pension scheme and NHS Compensation for Premature Retirement Scheme Accounts 2009-10 provides the following information:

(c) The proportion of male members of the scheme at 31 March 2010 was 25%.

(d) The proportion of female members of the scheme at 31 March 2010 was 75%.

Information from the NHS pension scheme and NHS Compensation for Premature Retirement Scheme Accounts 2010-11 provides the following information

(e) The number of active members of the scheme at 31 March 2011 was 1,329,479.

(f) The number of deferred members of the scheme was 560,332 and the number of pensioner members of the scheme was 669,090 at 31 March 2011.

NHS: Waiting Lists

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect projected levels of NHS funding will have on *(a)* waiting lists and *(b)* provision of expensive treatment options. [80383]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service funding will increase by £12.5 billion over the spending review period. Together with efficiency improvements of up to £20 billion over the same period, this will enable the NHS to maintain maximum waiting times standards set in the NHS Constitution and to continue to meet rising demand and cost pressures, including new drugs and treatments where these are effective and cost-effective.

Nurses

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will restore the role of state-enrolled nurses. [80561]

Anne Milton: Enrolled nurses are now known as level two nurses and must be registered on part two of the nurses' part of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (MNC) register. The NMC no longer approves programmes for nurses on part two of the register.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will order a review of the training of nurses. [80563]

Anne Milton: The standards of nurse education are set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. They have recently consulted on and reviewed nurse education and with the national health service and universities are in the process of implementing a new curriculum by September 2013.

Obesity: Health Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of progress with the Government's obesity strategy; what assessment he has made of likely progress by 2013; and if he will make a statement. [79755]

Anne Milton: The Government published 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England' on October 2011. The document set out details of two new national ambitions for reversing the trend in the level of excess weight in children and adults by 2020.

We will be establishing a National Ambition Review Group for obesity to review progress and consider further action.

A copy of the Call to Action has already been placed in the Library.

Organ: Donors

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage elderly people to volunteer as organ donors. [80382]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is the organ donation organisation responsible for matching and allocating donated organs. It is in the process of agreeing a partnership with the National Council of Palliative Care (NCPC) and has joined their Dying Matters Coalition. The NCPC leads the coalition and aims to change public attitudes and behaviours around dying, death and bereavement. The coalition members include organisations from across the national health service, voluntary and independent health and care sectors, charities and faith organisations, among others, and is working with people in the 55 to 65 and 65 to 75 age groups.

NHSBT have also identified a number of organisations that have a greater affinity and/or membership from the over 55 age group. NHSBT are looking at ways to work with these organisations to increase awareness of organ donation and encourage greater sign up to the Organ Donor Register.

Palliative Care: Finance

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to his Department's end-of-life care strategy after 2011; and what proportion of such funding has been ring-fenced for the 12 key activities identified in that strategy. [79803]

Paul Burstow: Funding for the end-of-life care strategy remains in primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations. PCT allocations are not ring-fenced. It is for individual PCTs to decide how best to deliver implementation, including how much funding to provide for the key priorities the strategy identified.

For 2011-12, £5.5 million has been allocated to support national work and projects and an indicative allocation of £38.7 million has been made under the Multi Professional Education and Training (MPET) budget for staff training and development in end-of-life care. The MPET funding is allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs). It is not ring-fenced and responsibility for how the MPET budget is spent lies with the SHAs.

Central programme budgets for 2012-13 onwards have not yet been set.

Prescription Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people bought a prescription prepay certificate in each of the last 12 months. [79860]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected on the number of people who purchased a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC). Information on the number of PPCs issued for prescriptions dispensed in England, in each month for the last 12 months is shown in the table.

	Number
November 2010	127,304
December 2010	98,792
January 2011	116,489
February 2011	114,684
March 2011	143,728
April 2011	102,147
May 2011	122,337
June 2011	107,922
July 2011	116,097
August 2011	135,739
September 2011	117,158
October 2011	112,914
Total	1,415,311

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority

Prosthetics: Ex-servicemen

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the adequacy of the prosthetics services for veterans. [79872]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not had any recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), on the adequacy of the prosthetics services for veterans. However, the Government commissioned my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to produce a report on the provision of prosthetics and rehabilitation to our veterans through the national health service in January this year. This report, 'A Better Deal for Military Amputees', was published on 21 October 2011 and accepted by the Government. In his report, Dr Murrison makes a number of recommendations to ensure that veterans continue to receive the excellent standard of care currently provided by the Ministry of Defence when they are in service. Officials are working closely together on implementation of the recommendations.

Radiotherapy

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the radiotherapy dataset annual report, whether he plans to reallocate radiotherapy resources to those parts of the country identified as being in most need of investment in radiotherapy facilities; and if he will make a statement; [79949]

(2) with reference to the radiotherapy dataset annual report, what assessment he has made of the *(a)* incidence of cancer and *(b)* access to radiotherapy treatment in the Northern Cancer Network; [79976]

(3) for what reasons his Department has delayed the introduction of a national radiotherapy tariff. [79977]

Paul Burstow: Decisions regarding the provision of radiotherapy services are the responsibility of the local commissioners. The "Radiotherapy Dataset (RTDS) Annual Report" enables commissioners and providers to understand how their radiotherapy services compare with other centres and to identify good practice. This will help tackle unwarranted variation and allow national teams to identify where they can focus their efforts in supporting service improvement.

The RTDS annual report found that North of England Cancer Network had a low rate of radiotherapy attendance per thousand cancer cases and that this rate could not be explained by a variation in cancer incidence. We are advised by NHS North East that the network has said it needs to look at the data to gain a clearer picture. The network has also said it recognises the need to increase capacity in radiotherapy services to reduce the distance that some patients have to travel for their treatment and that it is taking forward work in this area.

Finally, David Flory, deputy NHS chief executive, wrote to the service on 6 October to outline the proposed payment by results arrangements for 2012-13. This included the proposal to mandate the use of national currencies for external beam radiotherapy. Copies of the letter and the RTDS annual report have been placed in the Library.

Red Cross

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Red Cross regarding joint projects. [79859]

Paul Burstow: The Department is not aware of any recent discussions with the Red Cross on joint projects. However, I intend to meet with the Red Cross in the near future to discuss other issues. In addition, local national health service organisations have direct relationships with the Red Cross and therefore may have had such discussions.

Sickle Cell Diseases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails his Department has received on the subject of sickle cell anaemia in the last 12 months. [79867]

Anne Milton: A search of the Department's ministerial correspondence database has identified nine letters and three emails received since 1 November 2010 about sickle cell anaemia. This figure represents correspondence received by the Department's central correspondence team only. One of the letters was a joint petition from the Sickle Society and the United Kingdom Thalassaemia Society about funding for specialised health services.

Skin Cancer

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his assessment is of likely changes in the incidence of malignant melanoma over the next 20 years. [80456]

Paul Burstow: The 'Skin Cancer Vision' document published alongside 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' reported that 10,600 cases of malignant melanoma were diagnosed in the United Kingdom in 2006 and, if current trends continued, there would be around 15,500 cases of melanoma diagnosed in the UK per year within the next 15 years. A copy of the vision document has been placed in the Library.

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's strategy 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of malignant melanoma. [80457]

Anne Milton: In 2011-12, the Department has funded SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention campaign, to provide information and advice to the public. This involves a number of activities focusing on sun safety and appropriate sunbed use.

The Department has also published implementation guidance for local authorities on the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 and information for Sunbed Businesses. The purpose of the Act is to prevent those under 18 years from being allowed to use sunbeds in commercial premises.

Smoking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on smoking cessation. [79870]

Anne Milton: The Public Health White Paper 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England' (cm 7985) sets out the Government's long-term vision for improving public health in England. The White Paper, which is available in the Library, recognises the devastating impact that tobacco use has on public health in our communities.

Following on from the publication of the White Paper, the Government published 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England' in March 2011. The 'Tobacco Control Plan for England', which has already been placed in the Library, was agreed across Government prior to its publication in March 2011, and it includes a chapter on helping tobacco users to quit.

Sport: Schools

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage uptake of sport in schools to assist in prevention of lifestyle diseases. [80466]

Anne Milton: We recognise the critical importance of physical activity in preventing lifestyle diseases and the maintenance of good health in childhood and adolescence. The Department is providing £6.4 million between 2011-13 to achieve this aim through the embedding of 3,000

Change4Life School Sports Clubs in secondary schools and creating 4,500 clubs in primary schools. This programme is specifically designed to enable children to be more active, particularly the least active—often those who have not previously been engaged in traditional school sport.

Evaluation has already shown that the clubs are a "highly effective mechanism for change". Within the target group of those that were not choosing to play sport every week or that were not positive about sport (over 22,500 young people), those choosing to play sport every week increased by 166% and those positive about sport increased by 89%.

The Department is also supporting participation in school sport by a contribution of £14 million over two years to the School Games which is being led by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and supported by the Department of Education, Youth Sport Trust and Sport England. The School Games will capitalise on the run up to and the legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will create the opportunity for every school and every child to participate in competitive sport. It will also target the least active children who may previously not have been interested in competitive sport.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women enrolled on apprenticeships in (i) information and communication technology, (ii) engineering and manufacturing technologies and (iii) construction, planning and the built environment in (A) England, (B) the West Midlands and (C) Walsall South constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; [79790]

(2) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women enrolled on apprenticeships in (i) England, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) Walsall South constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [79791]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by gender in information and communication technology, engineering and manufacturing technologies, and construction, planning and the built environment and all sector subject areas in England, the West Midlands and Walsall South parliamentary constituency, in the 2009/10 academic year, the latest year for which final data is available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts by gender and sector subject area in Walsall South parliamentary constituency, the West Midlands and England, 2009/10

		Information and communication technology	*Engineering and manufacturing technologies*	*Construction, planning and the built environment*	*All apprenticeships*
Walsall South	Female	10	[1]—	[1]—	330
	Male	20	50	30	260
	Total	30	50	30	590
West Midlands	Female	250	100	30	16,930
	Male	1,060	3,300	2,310	14,790
	Total	1,300	3,400	2,340	31,720
England	Female	2,370	1,510	390	138,640
	Male	10,200	36,350	24,820	141,030
	Total	12,570	37,860	25,210	279,680

[1] Indicates a base value of less than five.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Total figures may not add up due to rounding.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011, available at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on apprenticeship starts by geographic breakdown, gender and sector subject areas are available in the SFR supplementary tables, available at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statistical firstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/Apprenticeship_sfr_supplementary_tables/

Biology: Graduates

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of first degree biological sciences graduates were in graduate-level employment or graduate-level training one year after graduating in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [78783]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Information on the proportion of first degree biological sciences graduates who were in graduate-level employment or graduate-level training one year after graduating is not available. The numbers and proportions of UK-domiciled first degree graduates who were in graduate-level employment or graduate-level further study six months after qualifying are shown in the following table for the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 as an alternative. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from June 2012.

UK-domiciled first degree biological sciences graduates[1] in graduate-level employment[2] or graduate-level further study[3] six months after qualifying. UK higher education institutions, academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10

	Number in employment or further study			
Academic year	*Graduate-level*	*Non graduate-level*	*Total in employment or further study*	*Proportion graduate-level (%)*
2005/06	10,700	6,665	17,365	61.6
2006/07	11,655	6,530	18,180	64.1
2007/08	12,075	6,830	18,905	63.9
2008/09	11,930	7,065	18,995	62.8
2009/10	12,200	7,630	19,825	61.5

[1] Covers graduates from full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Covers graduate-level Standard Occupational Classifications and full-time, part-time and voluntary employment.

[3] Covers taught and research based higher degrees, postgraduate certificates or diplomas and first degrees.

Note:

Figures in this table are rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals. Percentages are based on unrounded figures and are given to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education

Chief Scientific Adviser

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to fill the position of chief scientific adviser in his Department. [78756]

Mr Willetts: We are currently at an advanced stage of a recruitment campaign to fill the position of chief scientific adviser and expect to announce the name of the successful candidate before the end of the year.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 104W, on departmental data protection, if he will name the *(a)* Minister and *(b)* bookkeeper who was provided with the Minister's diary. [80279]

Mr Davey: It would not be fair to the individual or lawful under the Data Protection Act to release the name of the bookkeeper of the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my noble Friend Baroness Wilcox.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75114]

Mr Davey: Information on the Department's procurement spend level with third sector organisations in each month since May 2010 will be available in December and will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75115]

Mr Prisk: Information on the Department's procurement spend level with small businesses, medium-sized and large businesses since May 2010 will be available in December and will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [76454]

Mr Davey: Records for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and the previous Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department of Trade and Industry) indicate that the following numbers of statutory instruments, including Regulatory Reform Orders and a few local orders, were issued in the following calendar year:

	Total
1990	144
1995	112
1999	176
2000	146
2001	126
2002	128
2003	152
2004	135
2005	128
2006	119
2007	115
2008	125
2009	128
2010	92
2011 (to date)	69

The following Legislative Reform Orders were issued by the Department (and the then Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills) by parliamentary session.

	Number
2007-08	[1]2
2008-09	[2]4
2009-10	0
2010-11	0

[1] Verification of Weighing and Measurement Order 2008
Consumer Credit Order 2008

[2] Insolvency (Miscellaneous Provision) Order 2009
Insolvency (Miscellaneous Provision) Order 2009
Limited Partnerships Order 2009
Insolvency (Advertising Requirements) Order 2009

The figures have been drawn from the Department's database and written records, which, as with any recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Departmental Secondment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 301-02W, on departmental secondment, who the senior representatives of the business sector seconded to his Department were; from which companies they were seconded; what payments were made by his Department to those companies in connection with the secondments; to which areas of departmental business activity each secondment related; and what steps his Department has taken to ensure that expertise brought by each secondee is retained by his Department following the end of the period of the secondment. [80917]

Mr Davey: I have asked for this information to be compiled and will write to the hon. Member shortly with the detail. A copy of my reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79540]

Mr Davey: Ministers approve answers to parliamentary questions and they are accountable to Parliament for their answers.

Devolution: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what Barnett consequentials were paid to the Welsh Government as a result of the Regional Growth Fund in each of the three years since the fund was established. [78310]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The 2010 spending review settlements for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills included provision for the Regional Growth Fund. The devolved Administrations received Barnett consequentials on the changes to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skill's budget although the amount for the Regional Growth Fund was not separately identified.

Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* turnover, *(b)* level of employment and *(c)* level of exports attributable to the low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector in each year to 2020; and if he will make a statement. [80018]

Mr Prisk: HM Government have made no estimates of the projected turnover, employment level or export level in the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector.

However, independent research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills estimated the turnover, exports, number of jobs and forecast growth of the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector. Estimates include activity across the supply chain. The most recent data report on the 2009-10 financial year. The following tables provide 2009-10 turnover, employment and export estimates and growth forecasts until 2015-16.

UK LCEGS

	Total sales (£ million)
2007-08	107,343
2008-09	112,004
2009-10	116,780

UK LCEGS

	Total employment
2007-08	908,107
2008-09	909,782
2009-10	914,273

UK LCEGS

	Exports (£ million)
2007-08	10,454
2008-09	10,904
2009-10	11,326

UK LCEGS

	Growth estimates[1] (%)
2010-11	4.8
2011-12	5
2012-13	5.1
2013-14	5.3
2014-15	5.4
2015-16	5.6

[1] Growth forecasts provided are based on aggregated forecasts for turnover. *Source:* K-Matrix 2011.

Export Credits Guarantees: Libya

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for which projects concerning Libya the Export Credits Guarantee Department extended cover from January 2004 to date; what the maximum exposure was in each such case; and whether there is any extant cover. [81104]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department has not supported any export contracts to Libya from January 2004 to date.

Higher Education: Admissions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications have been submitted by residents of *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral, *(c)* the North West region and *(d)* England in (i) the current academic year and (ii) each of the last five academic years. [80798]

Mr Willetts: The latest information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

Applicants to UCAS by parliamentary constituency/region

	Year of entry					
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*[2]
Wallasey constituency[1]	632	674	751	841	889	903
The Wirral	2,439	2,576	2,862	3,099	3,263	3,287
The North West	49,125	51,954	58,299	64,644	68,965	68,721
England	358,067	380,077	424,596	461,421	495,884	497,710

[1] Parliamentary constituency has been identified using the home postcode regardless of the declared area of permanent residence.

[2] Since final data for the 2010-11 admission cycle (for entry into the 2011-12 academic year) have not yet been published, data reported in the above table reflect UCAS data taken 55 days (ie 12 October 2011) following the publication of A-level results on 18 August 2011. Final end of cycle data will be available in mid December.

Higher Education: Ethnic Groups

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people from black and minority ethnic groups in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency applied to university for entry in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* each of the previous five academic years. [77618]

Mr Willetts: The latest information is shown in the following table, and has been provided by the Universities and Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants domiciled in Birmingham Ladywood[1] constituency by ethnicity[2]

	Year of entry					
Ethnic background	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*[3]
Black, Asian, Mixed and other ethnic backgrounds	808	892	982	1,107	1,281	1,252
White	96	100	101	146	175	137
Unknown	258	232	315	323	202	189
Total	1,162	1,224	1,398	1,576	1,658	1,578

[1] Birmingham Ladywood constituency has been identified using the home postcode regardless of declared area of permanent residence.

[2] While completion of the ethnic origin field is mandatory for those with a declared area of permanent residence in the UK, applicants can indicate that they prefer not to say what their ethnic origin is. Data on the ethnic origin of applicants is not passed to institutions until after the selection process. Where the ethnic origin has not been detailed in this analysis, this is recorded as "Unknown".

[3] Since the 2010-11 admission cycle (for entry into the 2011-12 academic cycle) has not yet closed, data reported in the table reflect UCAS data taken 55 days (i.e. 12 October 2011) following the publication of A level results on 18 August 2011 (formerly referred to as "provisional end of cycle data"). Final end of cycle data will be available in mid December.

Higher Education: Finance

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the policy priorities set out in his 2010 grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England, whether he plans to include in his 2011 letter a provision that the top policy priorities for targeted funding should be supporting widening participation and fair access. [79805]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education White Paper, "Students at the Heart of the System" published in June this year, sets out clearly the importance the Government place on widening participation and improving fair access to higher education. We have been clear that all those with the ability should have access to higher education irrespective of their background or family income. Following the publication of the White Paper BIS Ministers wrote to Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) setting out priorities for funding which include the additional costs associated with attracting and retaining students from non-traditional backgrounds, and disabled students.

Government will signal their priorities for 2012/13 funding to HEFCE in the grant letter that will be issued at the turn of the year.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 330W, on higher education: private sector, if he will seek meetings with people who have *(a)* taught for and *(b)* studied with the for-profit higher education providers that he has met; and if he will seek meetings with their parent companies. [73400]

Mr Willetts: I am always happy to meet and speak with students and lecturers of higher education providers when the opportunity arises, for example on my visits to campus sites or lately through internet web chats.

I also meet regularly with providers of higher education including for-profit institutions. In that context, I am happy to meet with the parent companies of such providers.

HM Revenue and Customs

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) officials and *(b)* trade union representatives on the possible relocation of the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate from his Department to the national minimum wage enforcement team in HMRC. [80436]

Mr Davey: I have had no discussions with HM Revenue and Customs officials or trade union representatives on this matter.

Lip-reading

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to reclassify lip-reading as an essential skill for the purposes of skills funding. [79937]

Mr Hayes: "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November, 2010) recognises the importance of access to further education and skills training for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Where lip-reading skills may be needed to help deaf people get into work then these would be funded through the single adult skills budget.

Where people choose to learn lip reading for general interest purposes, a college or training provider may ask the individual to contribute fully or partially towards the cost.

In recent discussions with "Action for Hearing Loss" it was agreed that there are different "categories" of need for lip-reading skills and BIS officials are exploring with Action for Hearing Loss where skills funding can be used appropriately for lip reading provision.

Office for Life Sciences

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times he has met the Secretary of State for Health to discuss the Office for Life Sciences in the last 12 months. [80560]

Mr Willetts: Ministers and officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department of Health (DH) work closely and collaboratively to improve the UK business environment for life sciences companies. The Office for Life Sciences (OLS), based in the Department, is the principal vehicle for driving that work forward and is a routine part of these discussions.

Overseas Trade: Advisory Services

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the proposal contained in the British Chambers of Commerce's Autumn Statement letter to the Government that the Overseas Market Introduction Service should be restructured to a variable rate system depending on business size. [79431]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) pricing structure and strategy is under constant review. The last full refresh of policy was in April 2011. The Overseas Market Introduction Service (OMIS) charging structure is based on firms paying for services used, irrespective of company size, providing support for all firms but with additional assistance for target groups. To ensure support is targeted, UKTI offers grants and subsidies to small and medium-sized enterprises where it can make the most difference, such as encouraging new exporters or exporters to the high growth markets.

Research: Expenditure

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 757W, on research: expenditure, how much of the reduction in research and development expenditure he estimates is a consequence of a reduction in capital expenditure by the Government; and if he will make a statement. [76428]

Mr Willetts: The Department has not conducted any specific analysis of the impact of changing levels of Government capital expenditure on levels of business enterprise research and development (BERD).

Research and development (R and D) expenditure is pro-cyclical and therefore is expected to rise and fall in line with the economy. Although 2009 BERD levels were lower than the previous year, by 4.1% in real terms, this was matched by a larger drop in GDP over the same time period, meaning that BERD as a percentage of GDP increased slightly, from 1.10% to 1.12%.

When considering the sources of funds for R and D performed in UK businesses, the contribution from UK Government increased between 2008 and 2009, both in absolute and percentage terms. This is in contrast to reductions in funding from businesses' own funds, from other UK businesses and from overseas funding.

The Office for National Statistics will publish 2010 BERD data on 9 November 2011.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 757W, on research: expenditure, what steps he is taking to reverse the reduction in research and development expenditure in real terms; and if he will make a statement. [76429]

Mr Willetts: The Department is developing an innovation and research strategy to set out how this Government will support innovation and research in the UK and leverage significant public investment to drive sustainable growth and we intend to publish this later this year.

The Government are, though, already playing a role in maintaining research and development (R and D) expenditure with the protection of the science and research budget at £4.6 billion over the period of the comprehensive spending review. This investment is to secure the UK's leading position as the most productive research base in the G8 and as a global leader in research excellence, second only to the USA in the world. Universities are playing a role themselves, having leveraged £3.09 billion in external income in 2010, 4% more than in the previous year. We have seen a transformation in the engagement of UK universities with business and the UK has the highest number of spin-outs from universities in Europe—in 2010, 273 official spin-outs were established by UK universities. All of this makes the UK one of the world's leading locations for commercial and academic R&D and we have the fourth highest concentration of the world's top

1,400 international companies for R&D expenditure, including companies such as Rolls-Royce, Ford, Pfizer, Airbus, Eli Lilly, Eisai, Nokia, Syngenta, Merck and Motorola. And the UK is Europe's most successful country in attracting research-driven inward investment.

We are also working to reverse the reduction in research and development expenditure through a range of measures including the work of partner bodies such as the Technology Strategy Board, which is the Government's prime channel through which we support business-led technology innovation.

The Technology Strategy Board is establishing a network of elite technology and innovation centres to commercialise new and emerging technologies—the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre has been launched and others in the areas of cell therapy and offshore renewable energy are in development. The Technology Strategy Board also delivers national collaborative R and D and grant for R and D schemes, which are focused on supporting research and development projects in businesses, and the Small Business Research Initiative, which aims to provide business opportunities for innovative companies while solving the needs of Government Departments.

The Department is also working closely with HM Treasury to improve the climate in this area through improvements to the R and D tax credits scheme, as well as other ongoing activities, such as the implementation of a Patent Box. R and D tax credits are currently being reviewed to make them more efficient and effective. As part of this process, Budget 2011 announced significant increases in the rate of relief for the Small and Medium (SME) scheme. The rate is among the most competitive in the world, increasing in April 2011 from 175% to 200% of qualifying R and D expenditure and rising again to 225% from April 2012.

R and D tax credits are already the largest single Government support for business R and D, with claims recorded so far for FY 2009/10 for the Large and SME schemes reaching £1.02 billion, supporting R and D investment by business totalling £10.14 billion. Further take-up is anticipated following improvements to the schemes.

The Government have also been working with industry to work up details for the introduction of the Patent Box. This will allow companies to apply a 10% reduced rate of corporation tax on profits attributed to patents—providing an incentive for companies in the UK to retain existing patents and develop new innovative patented products. It will apply from 2013.

Students: Finance

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what effect requiring higher paid graduates to continue payments to the Student Loans Company for two years after they have paid off their loan would have on the way student loans are classified in the national accounts. [73680]

Mr Willetts: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) applies European System of Accounts (ESA) rules when classifying transactions for national accounts. Each transaction or set of transactions brought to ONS for an independent decision is considered on a case-by-case basis, and we cannot be clear as to how ONS may rule in this particular scenario.

Any changes that erased the link between the amount paid for tuition and the amount eligible to be paid back after study could lead to the loan scheme being formally reassigned as a graduate tax.

However, it is not the Government's intention that higher paid graduates should be required to continue making payments to the Student Loans Company after paying off their loans.

Students: Loans

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse arising from unpaid student loans due to individuals *(a)* emigrating and *(b)* who are not active within the workforce. [79224]

Mr Willetts: We currently estimate that the resource accounting and budgeting charge for student loans—representing the cost of both write-offs and interest subsidies—will be around 30% of the face value of loans issued.

This estimate allows for delays in repayments for borrowers who emigrate and includes the costs of those who are not active in the work force (either temporarily or permanently) but it is not possible to provide specific estimates for those factors in isolation.

Students: Sponsorship

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* businesses and *(b)* other organisations he expects to sponsor university places outside the quota system in the academic year (i) 2013-14 and (ii) 2014-15. [79761]

Mr Willetts: It is not possible to predict how many university places will be sponsored by businesses and other organisations for those years. This Department consulted through the Higher Education White Paper, on how we might find ways in future years of expanding opportunities for employers and charities to offer sponsorship for individual places outside of student number controls. A response will be published in due course.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80052]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all Ministers' external meetings are published every quarter in the normal way and are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/

Information for other officials' meetings is not held centrally.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will increase funding provided by his Department for assistance to refugees and internally displaced peoples along the Thailand-Burma border. [79717]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Britain is in the process of reviewing its last three years' assistance to refugees and internally displaced people (IDP) along the Thailand-Burma border. This will include a full review of results achieved so far, how effective we have been at meeting programme objectives and whether the UK's aid is providing good value for money. The review will help inform the Department for International Development's (DFID) future programme of support for IDPs and refugees along the Thailand-Burma border and decisions on funding. DFID remains fully committed to providing humanitarian aid to Burmese refugees in Thailand and people affected by conflict in eastern Burma.

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the level of *(a)* need and *(b)* funding for assistance to refugees and internally displaced peoples on the Thailand-Burma border. [79718]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Britain is in the process of reviewing its assistance to refugees and internally displaced people (IDP) along the Thailand-Burma border, and as part of this review will consider the needs and how to approach Britain's future programme of support, including funding levels. Officials are in regular contact with other donors, international organisations and NGOs to monitor the situation in the border area and the impact on people.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's aid budget was allocated to the Democratic Republic of Congo in each of the last 10 years. [80819]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The proportion of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure spent on the Democratic Republic of Congo in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

	£ million
2001-02	6
2002-03	13
2003-04	17
2004-05	29
2005-06	59
2006-07	75
2007-08	83
2008-09	94
2009-10	109
2010-11	133

A breakdown of DFID's expenditure by country are in the "Statistics on International Development" publication. This can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/Aid-Statistics/

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80179]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has, since May 2010, awarded the following contracts for design (and production) services, each under competitive tender and/or pre-existing government framework:

Project	*Contractor*	*Location of company*
Annual Report and Accounts 2010	Stairway, The Domarn Group	London
Templates to allow in-house publication typesetting	Communisis	Leeds
Climate Change Fast Start information pack	COI	London
Multilateral Aid Review Report	Tempo	London
Humanitarian and Emergency Response Review Report	Tempo	London
Complex graphics for Private Sector Approach paper (includes typesetting)	COI	London
Annual Report and Accounts 2011	Stairway, The Domarn Group	London
Circular display boards showing results commitments made in DFID's aid reviews	Tempo	London

It is not possible to provide the information requested for our offices overseas without incurring disproportionate cost.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80208]

Mr Duncan: In the year to 31 October 2011, The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent nothing on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, and *(d)* stationery.

On *(e)* campaigns, DFID has spent £930, connected with the announcement of our bilateral and multilateral aid reviews.

It is not possible to provide the information requested for our offices overseas without incurring disproportionate cost.

Parliamentary Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79573]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: All parliamentary questions are the responsibility of DFID Ministers and the clearance processes reflect this.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79571]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have placed in the Library a table documenting my Department's PQ performance since May 2010.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Developing Countries: Disease Control

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department will make public its *(a)* current and *(b)* future strategies on funding for research and development into prevention, treatment and diagnostics for diseases connected with poverty, including (i) HIV/AIDS, (ii) tuberculosis and (iii) malaria; how he intends to publish it; and if he will make a statement. [R] [80236]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government's current priorities for research include research into the development of new technologies for prevention, treatment and diagnostics for diseases of poverty including HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. We anticipate that there will be an open competition for future funding in these areas held during 2012. Details will be posted on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answers of 6 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1264-65W, and 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 578W, on developing countries: family planning, what proportion of the sums allocated *(a)* to the United Nations Population Fund in the next two years, *(b)* to International Planned Parenthood in the next two years and *(c)* to Marie Stopes International in the next three years is to be spent on sterilisation and abortion; and if he will make a statement. [79836]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation) and MSI (Marie Stopes International) all receive core funding from the Department for International Development. All of DFID's funding must be used in a manner that is consistent with DFID policy.

This support is used to cover administration costs as well as investing in specific programmes and projects at country level that improve maternal and reproductive health. Guidance on how these funds are spent is contained in a memorandum of understanding between DFID and UNFPA.

Information about the funding that DFID provides to IPPF and MSI is available in the Library of the House. DFID's support to IPPF and MSI can be used flexibly by both organisations, as long as they are able to meet the objectives and measurable performance indicators that have been agreed by DFID. DFID does not ask for disaggregated expenditure figures for each organisation.

The UK is committed to improving women's health and reducing the number of women dying from pregnancy and childbirth. DFID's support to these organisations saves women's and girl's lives as well as preventing injury and illness through improving access to family planning and reducing recourse to unsafe abortion.

Effective family planning is about a service and approach that gives people choice over their future and provides safe, secure services where they are needed. One aspect of this entails expanding the choice of family planning methods available to people, including short and long-term reversible contraceptives and, for those who have completed their families, the option of voluntary male or female sterilisation. DFID is clear that where women have no other choice than to have an abortion, this should take place in a safe environment instead of back street operations which cost 47,000 lives every year.

Israel: Agriculture

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had discussions with his Israeli counterpart on international co-operation in agricultural technology for farming in arid conditions. [80570]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have not had any discussions with my Israeli counterpart on international co-operation in agriculture technology relating to farming in arid conditions.

The UK currently has no direct co-operation with Israel on international development. Israel became a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in August 2010 and we hope that Israel will consider joining the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

South Sudan: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the UK has committed to South Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [79911]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) programme allocation for assistance to the Republic of South Sudan over the current comprehensive spending review (CSR) cycle is £376.6 million. The annual trajectory is as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	90.6
2012-13	91
2013-14	96
2014-15	99

The programme has also been allocated £2.6 million this financial year from the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP) which is co-managed between DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.

DFID's Operational Plan for the Republic of South Sudan, which was published shortly after Independence, lists a number of targets aligned to the Republic of South Sudan Government's national Development Plan. These include the following projected results by 31 March 2015:

240,000 more children to complete primary school

750,000 people to be treated for or prevented from getting malaria

4 million people to receive life-saving health care and nutrition

The printing and distribution of 12 million textbooks to almost 2 million children

Increased private sector investment and trade by reducing cross-border transport costs by up to 15%.

Yemen

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is planning to take to implement the priorities for his Department set out in the Building Stability Overseas Strategy in Yemen. [80511]

Mr Duncan: The principles of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy underpin the British Government's response to Yemen's manifold challenges. The three lead Departments, the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, have for some time worked closely together to deliver an integrated and coherent cross-Government approach. Our strategy has focused on working to degrade al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to the point where they no longer pose a strategic threat, and halting Yemen's decline into state failure by reducing conflict and grievances and increasing the capacity of the state.

The Government are gravely concerned with the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen. Through the Department for International Development (DFiD), and supported by diplomatic efforts in Sana'a, the UK Government are providing £15.4 million in humanitarian support in 2011-12 to meet immediate humanitarian needs in accordance with our strategy. DFID is also continuing to deliver development assistance to Yemen to support poor and vulnerable Yemenis, principally through ongoing support to the delivery of essential basic services such as health, education and water.

TREASURY

Child Care Vouchers

Damian Collins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the child care voucher scheme in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [79620]

(2) how much he expects to disburse under the child care voucher scheme to claimants *(a)* earning less than the salary at which the higher rate of income tax applies, *(b)* paying the higher rate of income tax but not the additional rate and *(c)* paying the additional rate of income tax in 2011-12. [79621]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* Income tax and NICs forgone on employer-supported child care provided through vouchers are estimated to cost the Exchequer £550 million in 2011-12.

The amounts of income tax and NICs (including employer NICs) forgone in 2011-12 for employees in different rate bands in respect of child care vouchers are estimated as follows:

£ million

Taxpayer band	*Relief for employee (tax and NICs)*	*Relief for employer (NICs)*	*Total*
Basic rate	205	90	295
Higher rate	180	60	240
Additional rate	15	5	15

Child Tax Credit

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families are in receipt of the family element of the child tax credit in *(a)* England, *(b)* the south east and *(c)* Dartford constituency. [80609]

Mr Gauke: The requested information can be found in the latest HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics: Geographical analyses—April 2011", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr11.pdf

Data for England, the south east and Dartford constituency are provided in the following table:

Number of families benefiting from child tax credit family element April 2011

	Thousand
England	4,820.2
South-east	676.0
Dartford	9.2

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families received child tax credits in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral, *(c)* the north-west, *(d)* England and *(e)* the UK in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) each of the last five years. [80795]

Mr Gauke: This information is available in HMRC's publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards. Geographical analyses" available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/final-award-geog.htm

The latest year for which data are available is 2009-10. Information for 2010-11 will be available in May 2012.

Duchy of Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department classifies the activities of the Duchy of Cornwall as *(a)* those of a private estate, *(b)* those of a public authority, *(c)* those of a public body, *(d)* part of the Crown or *(e)* in another fashion. [79970]

Miss Chloe Smith: The independent Office for National Statistics classifies entities for national accounts purposes.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has been made on payments under the Government's compensation scheme to Equitable Life policy holders living in Sheffield. [79900]

Mr Hoban: Payments began on the 30 June 2011, and the scheme will publish a progress report in due course. The scheme does not hold a breakdown of payments made by region, town or constituency.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many offer letters were sent by the Equitable Life Payment Scheme in each month during the operation of the scheme. [80916]

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made on payments to Equitable Life policyholders; and what proportion of payments he expects to be made by the end of 2011. [81141]

Mr Hoban: The scheme will be publishing a report in due course on the volumes and values of payments made.

European Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the. Chancellor of the Exchequer how many ministerial-level meetings have been held in his Department as part of the Government's examination of the balance of existing EU competences. [79811]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers have meetings on a wide variety of issues as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Financial Services: Complaints

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints were made to the Financial Ombudsman Service in relation to life insurance policies in each year between 1997 and 2005; and how many were resolved *(a)* at the assessment stage, *(b)* after investigation by an adjudicator and *(c)* by final decision of an ombudsman in each case; [80552]

(2) how many cases were received by the Financial Ombudsman Service in relation to the sale of *(a)* critical illness insurance, *(b)* payment protection insurance, *(c)* term life assurance and *(d)* income protection in each of the last five years; [80605]

(3) how many cases were received by the Financial Ombudsman Service in each of the last five years; and how many were resolved in each year; [80606]

(4) how many endowment mortgage complaints were upheld by the Financial Ombudsman Service and rejected by insurance companies in the latest period for which figures are available. [80607]

Mr Hoban: The matters raised are for the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS), whose day-to-day operations are independent from government control and influence. The questions have been passed on to the FOS, which will reply to the hon. Member directly by letter. A copy of the response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Industry: Production

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the most recent industrial production figures published by the Office for National Statistics; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the levels of industrial production for *(a)* future economic growth and *(b)* employment levels. [80800]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Office for National Statistics published the latest Index of Production release, covering the third quarter of 2011, on 8 November 2011. This release showed industrial production to have grown by 0.4% in the third quarter and manufacturing output by 0.2%. Manufacturing output is now 7.7% above its low in the third quarter of 2009.

HM Treasury uses a wide range of indicators to assess progress against its economic policy objective of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries, of which the Index of Production is one. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Office for Budget Responsibility will be publishing its Economic and Fiscal Outlook alongside his autumn statement on 29 November. This will include a forecast for future economic growth and employment.

Interest Rates

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to altering the 5% surcharge rate introduced by the Finance Act 1970 due to current rates of interest. [79661]

Mr Gauke: I am replying on the basis that the 5% surcharge in question is that provided by Section 59C Taxes Management Act 1970 (Surcharges on unpaid income tax and capital gains tax).

Following public consultation, these surcharges were replaced by a new penalty regime for failure to make payments of tax on time in schedule 56 of Finance Act 2009. The new regime came into effect on 6 April 2011 for payments of income tax and capital gains tax.

International Monetary Fund

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contributions were made to the International Monetary Fund in each year from 1997 to 2011. [80815]

Mr Hoban: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) publishes a summary of all members' financial position with the IMF, including contributions to IMF lending resource. The data cover the period 1997 to 2011 on a monthly basis.

This can be found on its website:

www.imf.org/external/np/fin/tad/exfin2.aspx?memberkey1=1010&date1key=2011-07-31

Mobile Phones: Aerials

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allocate part of the recently announced £150 million funding for infrastructure projects to improving mobile phone coverage. [79409]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government recently announced that they were providing an additional £150 million to improve mobile phone coverage in the UK. The principal consideration when considering the optimal use of the £150 million for mobile masts will be to fill in not-spots in the national 2G mobile coverage and raise the coverage level to 99% and we will be working with Ofcom and other stakeholders to determine where best to site these new masts.

No decisions on locating masts have yet been made. In making those decisions, consideration will be given to the requirements of hosting other technologies such as 3G to improve the coverage of that technology too. Looking further in the future we envisage that 4G could be hosted on the new structures as well.

PAYE

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of small businesses using payroll software from providers with whom he is discussing upgrading their products for real-time PAYE. [80165]

Mr Gauke: Based on 2010 employers' end of year returns, approximately 1 million small employers, or their agents, are using commercial payroll software. A further half a million small employers' returns were submitted using HMRC's free PAYE products.

The majority of small employers will begin submitting real time information in April 2013. HMRC has been liaising with all payroll software developers registered with HMRC's Software Developers' Support Team since autumn 2010 to ensure that they develop their payroll software products in time for this.

Employers with nine employees or fewer will be able to download HMRC's free 'Basic PAYE Tools' to calculate PAYE deductions and send real time information.

Pensions: Misrepresentation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to assist individuals who have been mis-sold mortgage endowment policies to achieve legal redress for their losses; [80550]

(2) whether his Department has investigated the role played by the Financial Services Authority in the regulation of the sale of endowment mortgages; [80553]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the advice the Financial Services Authority offers those wanting to pursue a claim for the mis-selling of endowment mortgages. [80608]

Mr Hoban: All investments, including endowment policies, carry financial risk. The Government cannot legislate to ensure good investment performance. Where a shortfall on an endowment mortgage is now expected, this does not in itself mean that the firm that sold the endowment mortgage was at fault at the time of the sale. However, Financial Services Authority (FSA) rules do require firms to explain the risks associated with investment products when these products are sold.

If a borrower feels the risks were not explained properly to them, in the first instance they should complain to the company through which they bought the product. If a borrower is not satisfied with the firm's response, they may consider referring the complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). The FOS offers a dispute resolution service for problems relating to financial products. It is free for consumers and, while its decisions are binding on firms, it does not interfere with consumers' rights to take action through the courts.

Although the Treasury sets the legal framework for the regulation of financial services, it does not have investigative or prosecuting powers of its own and is not able to intervene in individual cases.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of people who have experienced a shortfall in their endowment policies sold by solicitors in Scotland since the implementation of the provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. [80551]

Mr Hoban: This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from government control and influence. I understand from the FSA that the information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Sector: Pensions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate expenditure on public sector pensions if no changes were introduced in each year from 2010-11 to 2015-16. [63735]

Danny Alexander: The following table shows the estimated net expenditure on public service pensions from 2010-11 to 2015-16, with and without the announced policy changes to uprating and employee pension contributions. Net expenditure on public service pensions measures benefits paid, less employer and employee contributions received.

Net expenditure on public sector pension schemes

						£ billion
	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
OBR Forecast	5.8	7.0	7.8	8.0	8.7	9.7
includes savings from:						
Uprating by CPI	0.0	0.4	0.6	1.0	1.4	2.0
Contribution increases	0.0	0.0	1.2	2.3	2.8	2.9
Forecast, excluding policy changes	5.8	7.4	9.6	11.2	12.9	14.6

Notes:

1. The table includes central Government pay-as-you go public service pension schemes and locally administered police and fire-fighters' pension schemes, but excludes the funded Local Government Pension Scheme which does not affect net expenditure.
2. OBR forecast is taken from Table 4.1 5 of the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook, March 2011.
3. Savings from uprating by CPI are calculated by HM Treasury and relate to the decision to use the consumer prices index (CPI) as the Government's preferred measure for benefit and pension uprating.
4. Savings from contribution increases are taken from HM Treasury's spending review 2010 policy costings note.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of planned changes to public sector pensions on part-time workers earning less than £15,000 per annum. [79795]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 10 November 2011]*: In "Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last", published on 2 November, the Government set out their intention that

> "most low and middle earners working a full career will receive pension benefits at least as good, if not better than they get now".

To protect those on the lowest incomes from increases to member pension contributions, the Government set out a commitment that those earning less than £15,000 (full-time equivalent) will see no increase in their member contributions, and those earning less than £21,000 (full-time equivalent) will see an increase of no more than 0.6 percentage points in 2012-13 (and no more than 1.5 percentage points in total).

As agreed with the trade unions, the Government will ensure that there is a full equality impact assessment before changes to public service pensions are implemented.

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Public Houses

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to review the level of stamp duty payable on *(a)* new leases and *(b)* renewal of leases for public houses. [80814]

Miss Chloe Smith: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer keeps all taxes, including stamp duty land tax, under review at the Budget.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Esther McVey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the possible effect on *(a)* electricity intensive businesses and *(b)* corporation tax revenue of an increase in the carbon floor price. [79753]

Miss Chloe Smith: An assessment of the impacts of the carbon price floor is given in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

By the end of the year the Government will set out a package of measures to assist those energy intensive businesses whose international competitiveness is most affected by energy and climate change policies in order to reduce the impact of Government policy on the cost of electricity for these businesses.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of taxation gathered from environmental taxes in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each financial year to April 2015. [79777]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government are currently finalising their definition of environmental taxes. Once this work concludes, a written statement will be placed in the House Library. This will establish a baseline against which the Government's commitment to increase the proportion of revenue from environmental taxes can be measured.

Taxation: Football

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely cost to grassroots sports clubs of HM Revenue and Customs' decision to change the tax status of small-sided football leagues. [79630]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' view is that the provision of sports league services is liable to VAT at the standard rate. As a number of providers have been treating these supplies as exempt from VAT, HMRC issued further guidance in February 2011, confirming their view that the provision of sports league services is liable to VAT. There has been no change to the VAT status of sports clubs.

Unpaid Taxes

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will offer assistance to people affected by his decision to alter the time limit to reclaim the arrears payments of tax; [79659]

(2) whether HM Revenue and Customs will take into account any particular special circumstances of a claimant of tax arrears who has missed his four year deadline. [79660]

Mr Gauke: Finance Act 2008 introduced changes to these and other time limits. Under transitional provisions, for many taxpayers the new time limits will not come into effect until 1 April 2012.

HMRC publicised the changes before they began to come into force and have provided advice and guidance for those affected.

In general, HMRC will only accept claims for repayment of direct tax which are made within the statutory time limits. However, HMRC will repay direct tax in respect of claims made outside the statutory time limits where the over-payment has arisen because of an error by HMRC or another Government Department and where there is no dispute or doubt as to the facts.

Working Tax Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households will have a reduction in their entitlement as a result of his proposal to increase the hours requirement for working tax credit for couples with children; and what the average reduction will be for such households. [80162]

Mr Gauke: The measure to restrict eligibility to the working tax credit to 24 hours for couples with children is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

Estimating the number of households impacted by an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the packages of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Bahrain concerning sentences imposed on doctors and nurses who provided medical treatment for those involved in recent public disorder and unrest. [80471]

Alistair Burt: I was deeply concerned to hear of the sentencing of Bahraini medical personnel after the briefest of hearings in a Special Tribunal on 29 September 2011. The sentences appeared disproportionate to the charges brought against the individuals and undermined the Bahraini Government's attempts to move towards dialogue and reform. I spoke to the Bahraini ambassador in London on 30 September to reiterate this.

I was therefore pleased by the Bahraini Attorney General's announcement the following week that the case would be retried in a civilian court. We continue to encourage the authorities to ensure due process is fairly and transparently followed in all cases.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board. [79732]

Mr Lidington: The Peace Implementation Council (PIC) Steering Board provides essential guidance and support to the High Representative in the exercise of his mandate under the Dayton Peace Agreement. It also performs regular assessments of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards the completion of the '5+2' conditions agreed by the PIC for the Office of the High Representative's (OHR) closure. It continues to meet at ambassadorial level in Sarajevo every week, and formally at foreign ministry senior official level every four months. By bringing together the most important international supporters of the Dayton Peace Agreement, the PIC Steering Board plays a vital role in supporting the terms of the Peace Agreement.

The British Government continues to support the work of the High Representative and to take an active role in the Steering Board. It considers completion of the conditions set by the PIC as the right indicators for when Bosnia and Herzegovina can function without the OHR. At its most recent meeting, on 6 July 2011, the Steering Board concluded that this conditionality had not been met and expressed its concern at the lack of progress made in this regard.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential for inter-ethnic conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [79733]

Mr Lidington: The security environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains broadly calm and stable. However, the political situation remains of serious concern. Failure to form a new state-level Government over a year after elections, the absence of further progress on the EU or NATO accession reform agenda (as highlighted by the European Commission's Annual Progress Report in October), continued nationalist rhetoric and a poor economic situation are of particular concern.

We cannot exclude the possibility that mounting political challenges might impact on the security situation. We will continue to monitor this. We remain resolutely committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sovereign, stable country with functioning state level institutions, irreversibly on the path to EU and NATO membership. We continue to work on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the International Community, to promote stability and security. In this context the executive mandates of the EU-led peacekeeping mission, EUFOR Althea, and the High Representative remain important safeguards. We look forward to the renewal, for another year, of the executive mandate for EUFOR Althea, by the United Nations Security Council on 16 November.

British Overseas Territories: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Overseas Territories White Paper will include a target to halt overall loss of biodiversity by 2020 in all British Overseas Territories. [80451]

Mr Bellingham: The White Paper on the Overseas Territories will be published in 2012. It is too early to comment on what will be included.

Central America

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are stationed in countries of the System of Central American Integration. [79873]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has approximately 85 staff based in the countries of the System of Central American Integration. This number will rise to approximately 95 as part of the network shift towards Latin America announced to Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in April. This includes staffing of the new embassy in San Salvador which will open next year. These numbers include UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Central America: Storms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is giving to British nationals adversely affected by the recent tropical depression in Central America. [79863]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We changed our travel advice to warn British nationals of the floods and heavy rains resulting from the tropical depression. Our regional consular team was on stand-by and we issued warnings through our warden network in affected countries.

China: Elections

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese Government on its recent actions against independent political activists wishing to stand in local level National People's Congress elections. [80696]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of reports that a number of independent candidates have been unable to stand in local level elections in China. Ministers regularly make the case to their Chinese counterparts that political reform is in China's interests. As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Command Paper on Human Rights and Democracy sets out: societies that enjoy genuinely participatory democracy are more likely to be secure and prosperous in the longer term, as democratic development alleviates poverty, reduces corruption and creates the conditions to sustain economic growth.

As the Prime Minister has said, democracy is a process, not an event. We recognise that countries develop at different paces and our support will need to be specific to the context. And important though elections are, participatory government is about much more than the simple act of voting. Democracy has to be built from the grassroots up. The building blocks have to be laid, like the independence of the judiciary, the rights of individuals, free media and free association. The Government are committed to engaging with China on these issues.

Cluster Munitions: International Co-operation

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to *(a)* strengthen the Convention on Cluster Munitions and *(b)* encourage other countries to eliminate the use of cluster munitions. [81101]

Alistair Burt: The UK is committed to ridding the world of all cluster munitions. We believe the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is crucial to achieving that goal.

As a former user and producer country, and militarily active state which has given up cluster munitions, we have a positive story to tell. We have shared our experience of giving up and systematically destroying our stockpile of cluster munitions with other countries and been active in promoting the universalisation of the CCM in relevant bilateral meetings and in multilateral fora. In October, the UK hosted, in partnership with Non Governmental Organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, a universalisation workshop for Commonwealth countries opened by the Minister of State, my right hon. and noble Friend the Lord Howell of Guildford.

We will continue to use all appropriate bilateral and multilateral opportunities to press for countries to join the CCM and give up cluster munitions.

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 69W, on departmental assets, if he will list each such completed project; and if he will make a statement. [80266]

Mr Lidington: The completed projects consist of necessary security and safety improvements, the refurbishment of existing facilities and other measures to lower the running costs of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and/or to improve our frontline capability and diplomatic presence.

These include:

Infrastructure at a compound in Marjah;

The purchase of land and the building costs for a new embassy and residence in Tbilisi;

Purchase of a new residence in Warsaw;

Purchase of the residence in Zagreb;

The installation of new boilers in the UK;

Upgrading our computer and communications facilities in our global network of nearly 270 posts including the rollout of video conferencing facilities and improving the ability of our staff to work remotely.

The majority of capital projects were funded by selling surplus properties within the FCO estate. Details of projects with higher classification are not disclosed in the interests of national security.

Economic and Monetary Union

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received of the implications of the proposed European Stability Mechanism for *(a)* the rule of law in and *(b)* standards of democratic accountability in the EU; and if he will make a statement. [79830]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

The Government receive representations on many issues from a range of stakeholders, but it is not the Government's practice to disclose details of all such representations.

The European Stability Mechanism will be established on an intergovernmental basis between the 17 euro area countries; the UK will therefore neither participate in, nor contribute to, the mechanism.

It is in Britain's interests that we have a strong and stable euro area—more than 40% of our exports are to the euro area. We want the euro to be a success, and so we support the euro area's intention to put in place a permanent mechanism to deal with sovereign debt issues.

Foreign Relations

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedure is in place to notify him of meetings between other Cabinet Ministers and representatives of foreign governments. [80637]

Mr Lidington: Ministers meet representatives of foreign governments in the normal course of business and travel in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Kenya: Kidnapping

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what communications he has had with the Kenyan government and the transitional federal government of Somalia relating to the kidnapping of Judith Tebbutt and the death of her husband. [80470]

Mr Bellingham: In ongoing hostage cases, it is our policy when lives may be at risk not to discuss operational details such as the degree of co-operation with other states. More generally, the British high commission is discussing with the Kenyan Government ways in which security can be improved at the coast following recent attacks and the Metropolitan police has supported the Kenyan investigation into David Tebbutt's murder.

Libya: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Libyan Transitional National Council on the safety and security of sub-Saharan African nationals in Libya. [80272]

Alistair Burt: During his visit to Libya last month, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised concerns about reports of human rights abuses committed by Free Libya Forces including the recent reporting by Amnesty International on the treatment of detainees, in particular sub-Saharan Africans. The Chairman of the National Transitional Council (NTC) assured him that they were taking action to meet Libya's international human rights obligations and had already begun investigations into these reports. The new Prime Minister, Abdurrahim al-Kib, reiterated the NTC's commitments in this respect the day after taking office. We will continue to raise the issue of minority rights with the NTC and the Transitional Government when formed.

Nicaragua

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit Nicaragua. [79924]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has no immediate plans to travel to Nicaragua. I will be visiting Central America within the next year, but the specific details are not yet finalised.

Nicaragua: Storms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Nicaragua on the recent tropical depression affecting that country. [79861]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not discussed the matter with the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister directly. However, I issued two statements last month expressing sympathy and support for countries affected by the tropical depression and have also passed this message to ambassadors in the United Kingdom. Our non-resident ambassador to Nicaragua discussed the tropical storm with its Government when he visited last week.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the humanitarian effect of the recent Kenyan military incursion into Somalia; and what steps he is taking to urge parties involved in the conflict to respect international humanitarian law. [81003]

Mr Bellingham: UN High Commissioner for Refugees reported on 4 November that fewer refugees are arriving at Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya due to the rains and to insecurity in the Kenya-Somalia border area. While we support Kenya's intervention, we have urged Kenya to continue allowing refugees in from Somalia, and not to forcibly return refugees from Somalia over the border. We have also stressed that the intervention should not impede humanitarian operations and should comply with international law. We will work with Kenya, the Somali Transitional Federal Government, the EU and other organisations to ensure that any action is consolidated by stabilisation and the development of credible, accountable governance structures.

Sudan: Foreign Investment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings his Department has had with *(a)* external organisations and *(b)* commercial companies on investment in Sudan. [80643]

Mr Bellingham: UK officials provide advice on investment in Sudan to interested British companies on the same basis as for any other country. No central record of contacts is maintained.

Tony Buckingham

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates Tony Buckingham visited his Department since April 2010. [80812]

Mr Lidington: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 157W.

Turkey: EU Enlargement

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the issue of Turkish recognition of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 will be a consideration in the Government's policy in respect of the application by Turkey for membership of the EU; and if he will make a statement. [80986]

Mr Lidington: The EU Accession Negotiating Framework of 2005 requires Turkey's unequivocal commitment to good neighbourly relations with all its neighbours. The European Commission's 2011 Progress Report on Turkey's accession to the European Union concluded that no progress had been made in the past year in the normalisation of relations with Armenia.

Her Majesty's Government continue to encourage the normalisation of relations between Turkey and Armenia to improve the stability and security of the region and open up wider trade opportunities for the benefit of both countries and wider Europe.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* criminal prosecutions have been initiated by the Turks and Caicos Islands' Special Investigation and Prosecution Team. [79874]

Mr Bellingham: The Special Investigation and Prosecution Team continues to conduct itself in line with UK police and prosecution best practice. Until such time as persons are brought before a court, no information will be volunteered about any arrests or charges.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* status and *(b)* progress of proceedings by the Turks and Caicos Islands Special Prosecutor against Mr Michael Misick. [79876]

Mr Bellingham: I receive regular reports on the progress of the work of the Special Investigation and Prosecution Team in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse in *(a)* the Turks and Caicos Islands and *(b)* the UK has been of the Turks and Caicos Special Investigations and Prosecution Team in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [79877]

Mr Bellingham: In 2009-10 the start-up costs of approximately £660,000 were funded by the UK.

The 2010-11 costs (US$4.6 million) were funded from a discretionary UK grant of £6.6 million to the Turks and Caicos Islands Government which covered the cost of the Special Investigation and Prosecution Team; civil recovery work; and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police.

For 2011-12 the Turks and Caicos Islands Government budget for the Special Investigation and Prosecution Team is US$6 million.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost has been of the civil recovery activities of the *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* counsel appointed by the Turks and Caicos Islands Government in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11, and (iii) 2011-12 to date. [79878]

Mr Bellingham: In the financial year 2010-11 the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) spent US$4.2 million on the civil recovery programme including for four months work done after the commencement of the programme in December 2009 but not paid until the 2010-11 financial year. In the financial year 2011-12, TCIG has budgeted to spend US$4.2 million on the civil recovery programme. Information on a breakdown of costs between solicitors, counsel, third party experts and disbursements is not readily available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* status and *(b)* progress of the civil recovery programme in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [79922]

Mr Bellingham: The civil recovery team recently announced that they had made 29 separate recoveries of land and/or cash amounts. Almost 900 acres of land have so far been returned to the Crown. The value of the land recovered so far is many tens of millions of dollars. By the end of the programme, the team expects to have recovered land worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The team expects to continue to be busy over the next 12 to 18 months. Trials are likely to take place on all the major cases within this timeframe. Appeals may extend this time frame but the team is doing everything it can to move cases along as quickly as possible.

Yemen

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is planning to take to implement the priorities for his Department set out in the Building Stability Overseas Strategy in Yemen. [80512]

Alistair Burt: The principles of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy underpin the UK Government's response to Yemen's manifold challenges. The three lead Departments, the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, have for some time worked closely together to deliver an integrated and coherent cross-Government approach. Our strategy has focused on degrading al-Qaeda in the Arabian peninsula to the point where they no longer pose a strategic threat, and halting Yemen's decline into state failure by reducing conflict and grievances and increasing the capacity of the state.

The current security situation in Yemen has unfortunately meant that we have had to reduce significantly the number of staff we have in country to deliver our strategy, and to suspend or reduce a number of key programmes.

Since the escalation of internal conflict the immediate central objective of UK policy to Yemen is to secure a peaceful and orderly political transition on the basis of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Initiative. The international community support this policy and this is reflected in the UN Security Council Resolution 2014, unanimously adopted on 21 October. We are working closely with the GCC, EU, US and UN to press all sides to reach an agreement on transition.

Our cross-Government conflict management programmes aim to strengthen popular participation in the political process, to bridge the gap between governed and the governing elite. The programme focuses on tribal and community structures, professionalising security and justice services, refugee and host community conflict reduction, water related conflict issues and election related violence. We also continue to provide training for a very small number of Yemeni officers on key courses in the UK. This training supports the third pillar of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy in helping to build legitimate institutions; and includes elements which enhance an individual's understanding of the control and employment of security forces in accordance with the rule of law.

We are gravely concerned with the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen. Through DFID, and supported by diplomatic efforts in Sana'a, the UK Government are providing £15.4 million in humanitarian support in 2011-12 to meet immediate humanitarian needs in accordance with our strategy.

DFID is also continuing to deliver development assistance to Yemen to support poor and vulnerable Yemenis, principally through on-going support to the Yemeni Social Fund for Development which secures the delivery of essential basic services such as health, education and water.

Future engagement in support of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy will be dependent on the political and security situation in Yemen. The Government hope to be able to provide support to strengthen the resilience of the Yemeni economy and help Yemeni civil society to engage in the political process, assist in the development of legitimate institutions and enhance local governance, in order to increase Yemen's ability to manage tensions and shocks and hence reduce instability and conflict in the future.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce the results of his review of Part P of the building regulations. [80915]

Andrew Stunell: We plan to publish the consultation document on the review of Part P of the building regulations in December, with a three month deadline for receipt of responses. Having considered the responses, we would aim to lay amended regulations and publish revised Approved Document P guidance by October 2012.

Building Regulations: Water Supply

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for minimum water efficiency standards in future revisions of the Building Regulations. [79994]

Andrew Stunell: I currently have no plans to change the 125 litres/person/day water efficiency requirement for new dwellings, which only came into force in the Building Regulations in April 2010.

Domestic Waste: Waste Collection

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from which budget the £250 million of funding identified to support councils to deliver weekly collections of household waste was allocated; and how such funding will be phased over the next three years. [80965]

Robert Neill: The Weekly Collection Support Scheme, announced on 30 September 2011, will make up to £250 million available to English local authorities to help them deliver weekly collections of household waste. DCLG is funding the scheme from unallocated resources, as reported in the annual report and accounts for 2010-11. We intend to make a statement giving further details about the scheme soon, ahead of publishing the full bidding guidance in the new year.

Economic Growth: Liverpool

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take following the publication of the report on growth opportunities in Liverpool. [79757]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 November 2011, PQ 78743.

Energy Performance Certificates: Holiday Accommodation

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether holiday lets are exempt from the need to have energy performance certificates when they are rented out *(a)* for less than a cumulative period of four months within a 12 month period and *(b)* through a licensing arrangement where the holidaymaker does not have exclusive use of the property during the period for their booking. [79899]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Following the Westminster Hall debate initiated by my hon. Friend, 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 230WH, Ministers have reviewed the implementation of the legislation to see if unnecessary regulations on holiday lets could be removed. This has taken place under the auspices of the Government's Red Tape Challenge.

We have listened carefully to the concerns raised by hon. Members and the tourism industry and have concluded that an energy performance certificate should not be required for a holiday let where:

the property is rented out for less than four months in a year; or

it is let under a licence to occupy—regardless of the amount of time it is occupied.

A licence to occupy is an arrangement where the holidaymaker does not have exclusive use of the property; for example, where the property owner or their representative has the right to access the premises during the period of the booking.

My Department will be publishing detailed guidance on this issue shortly. We will also be making appropriate amendments to the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations.

Enterprise Zones: Scotland

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on establishing enterprise zones in Scotland. [77432]

Greg Clark: As enterprise zones are an England-only policy, no relevant discussions have taken place between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Scottish Government. However, Ministers from DCLG regularly meet colleagues from the Scotland Office to discuss a range of matters.

Fair Communities Scheme

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of the funding for the Fair Communities scheme has been spent since the start of the comprehensive spending review period. [80966]

Robert Neill: Ministers will make an announcement in due course on the Government's integration policy and on the Fair Communities programme.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to notify fire authorities of their budget allocation for 2013-15. [79932]

Robert Neill: The Government set out consultation proposals this summer for changes to the funding of local authorities, including fire and rescue authorities. We are considering responses to the consultation and anticipate introducing the new funding arrangements from April 2013.

During 2012 we will work with the sector on how to set the baseline for the business rates retention system before consulting formally in summer 2012.

We expect to announce the settlement for local authorities for 2013-14 and the provisional one for 2014-15 at around the same time frame as is usual for the start of a multi-year settlement. Statutory consultation on the 2013-14 settlement will start around late November/early December 2012. Ministers will then take final decisions on the allocations and these will be announced in mid to late January 2013.

Homelessness: Ex-servicemen

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of former armed service personnel who became homeless in each of the last 10 years. [79773]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly PIE returns.

Information is collected on the number of households accepted as being statutory homeless whose main reason for loss of last settled home was having left the armed forces. This will not include households containing people who have previously been in the armed forces but were made homeless for other reasons. This information was first collected in 2005-06 and is given as follows:

Households with reason of last settled home being having left the armed forces

	Number
2005-06	270
2006-07	200
2007-08	220
2008-09	160
2009-10	120
2010-11	150

Note:
Figures are rounded to nearest 10 households.
Source:
PIE returns

Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and a summary is published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Breakdowns on whether other homeless people were formerly armed forces personnel are not available, eg rough sleepers.

Preventing and tackling homelessness amongst veterans has been one of the priorities of my Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness. The group's first report "Vision to end rough sleeping: No Second Night Out nationwide" published on 6 July, sets out the Government's intention to roll out "No Second Night Out" nationally, the approach being taken by the Mayor of London to quickly identify new rough sleepers and includes a number of commitments to support ex-service personnel. We will continue to work with the Mayor to deliver No Second Night Out in London and to roll out the principles of No Second Night Out nationally. We have already provided an additional £20 million to Homeless Link for a new Homelessness Transition Fund to help delivery.

I intend to write to hon. Members shortly to draw their attention to what we are doing for the armed forces, and will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Housing: Construction

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to encourage parish councils to seek support from outside agencies to help deliver local housing projects. [78148]

Andrew Stunell: Parish councils are not responsible for the delivery of housing projects. However, our neighbourhood planning proposals will give parish councils a greater say in the future of their area, including where they think new houses and other development should go.

The provisions in the Localism Bill include a duty for local planning authorities to provide advice and support to parishes or neighbourhood forums preparing neighbourhood planning proposals. We have also committed £3.2 million for funding four support organisations (Royal Town and Planning Institute, Locality, Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment and National Association of Local Councils/Campaign to Protect Rural England) to provide independent advice for communities on planning.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Wiltshire

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the level of inward investment to Swindon arising from the creation of the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership. [80566]

Greg Clark: The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership is at an early stage of development, with board members currently being recruited, to be in place by January. The partnership has identified investment as one of its three core priority programme areas and set out in its proposal that it will 'establish a rapid response capacity across the area that will work in partnership with UK Trade and Industry to attract and retain inward investment'. I am therefore confident that, when the board is established, it will make an important contribution to increasing inward investment in Swindon and Wiltshire.

Local Government

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what basis his Department's new Communities and Local Government localities have been determined; and how many people live in each locality. [78805]

Greg Clark: The Department for Communities and Local Government's new approach to working with local areas reflects feedback from local authorities and partnerships about the type of engagement they want from the Department. Our structure of 14 areas is principally based on Local Enterprise Partnership and Homes and Communities Agency geography.

The following table shows the local authorities that fall within and the estimated population for each locality:

Constituent local authorities of the 14 areas	*Mid-2010 population estimate (thousand)*
Bolton, Bury, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Sefton, St Helens, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Warrington, Wigan, Wirral	4,992
Cumbria, Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool	1,944
County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, South Tyneside, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland	2,607
Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Rotherham, Sheffield, Wakefield, York	5,301
Coventry, Derby, Derbyshire, Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire	4,607
Birmingham, Dudley, Herefordshire, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire, Staffordshire	4,604
Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire	1,544

Constituent local authorities of the 14 areas	*Mid-2010 population estimate (thousand)*
East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Camden, City of London, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Wandsworth, Westminster, Tower Hamlets	6,556
Norfolk, Suffolk	1,582
Surrey, Brighton and Hove, West Sussex	2,186
Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Peterborough, Buckinghamshire, Rutland	2,434
Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, North Somerset, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly	4,546
Wiltshire, Swindon, West Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset, Bournemouth, Bracknell Forest, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Poole	4,126
Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton, Waltham Forest	5,207

Note:
The figures in the table are rounded to the nearest thousand and are totals of local authority figures rounded to the nearest 100 population.
Source:
Mid-2010 population estimates, Office for National Statistics

Local Government: Databases

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what data on *(a)* renewable energy, *(b)* greenhouse gas emissions, *(c)* air quality and (d) conservation and biodiversity local authorities are required to submit to his Department under the Single Data List; [79998]

(2) what data on *(a)* air quality, *(b)* renewable energy and *(c)* greenhouse gas emissions local authorities are required to submit under the Single Data List. [79979]

Robert Neill: Local authorities submit data on greenhouse gas emissions from their own estate and operations to the Department of Energy and Climate Change on an annual basis.

Local authorities submit data annually to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the proportion of local sites where positive biodiversity conservation management is being achieved.

Both of these data collections are recorded on the Single Data List. There is no need for local authorities to also report these data to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Local Government: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of members of the local government pension schemes who are *(a)* part-time, *(b)* full-time, *(c)* male, *(d)* female, *(e)* active members and *(f)* deferred members/pensioners. [80501]

Robert Neill: At the end of March 2011, there were 1,633,000 (39%) active members in the Local Government Pension Scheme in England. At the same date there were 1,187,000 (29%) pensioners and 1,326,000 (32%) former members who are entitled to deferred benefits.

Data are not available broken down by gender or employment status.

This information was published on 12 October 2011 in Table 3 in a statistical release "Local Government Pension Scheme Funds England 2010-11" that is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/local regional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/pensionscheme/

The data are as supplied to DCLG by the 81 local government pension scheme administering authorities in England on the annual "SF3 Local Government Pension Funds" forms.

Mayors: Liverpool

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has considered giving a wider regional role to any directly elected Mayor for Liverpool. [79758]

Robert Neill: While we recognise that a city led by a directly elected mayor will be well placed to contribute to the economic growth and success of the wider locality, our commitment is to create, subject to confirmatory referendums, directly elected mayors in the largest English cities, including Liverpool.

Multiple Occupation

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions he has had with landlord organisations on the effect on article 4 directions specific to houses in multiple occupation on the availability of places available for rent under proposed changes to the single room rate; [R] [78745]

(2) whether his Department has carried out an impact assessment on the effect of the introduction of article 4 directions specific to houses in multiple occupation on the availability of rooms suitable for the proposed new single room rate. [R] [78746]

Grant Shapps: The blanket requirement for planning permission for houses in multiple occupation included at the tail end of the last Administration imposed a significant regulatory cost on the private rented sector.

The Government have streamlined these planning requirements, allowing councils to control the number of new houses in multiple occupation via article 4 directions allowing for targeted action in communities where the cumulative impact of such dwellings harms local amenity; this approach will avoid the blanket over-regulation of the whole private rented sector.

The impact assessment produced in September 2010 (DCLG, Houses in multiple Occupation—changes to planning legislation) estimates that this Government's reforms will deliver a net benefit worth £104 million.

By contrast, the impact assessment produced under the last Administration on their planning changes, warned of a "potential reduction in supply of this type of low cost accommodation and therefore potential for rents to increase if there is a reduction in supply" (CLG, Introducing a definition of houses in multiple occupation into the Use Classes Order: Impact Assessment, March 2010, p.8).

In this context, compared to the status quo, this Government's changes will increase the availability of low-cost accommodation for rent.

Planning Permission

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what weight he will place on the representations from the Environment Agency on the National Planning Policy Framework in *(a)* general and *(b)* relation to inappropriate developments on floodplains; and if he will make a statement. [78473]

Greg Clark: The Government take the issue of flood risk very seriously and the policies set out in the draft National Planning Policy Framework aim to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.

We will give careful consideration to the response from the Environment Agency alongside the others we have received on the draft National Planning Policy Framework to inform our final decisions and we will publish a summary of responses to the consultation in due course.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish *(a)* the summary of consultation responses and *(b)* his response to the consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. [78936]

Greg Clark: The 12 week consultation period on the draft National Planning Policy Framework closed on 17 October. We are now carefully considering all of the submissions that have been made. Having fully considered the suggestions made, we will then publish the revised text taking into account representations that have been made and a summary of responses to the consultation. The Government are committed to the publication of this final version of the Framework by 31 March 2012.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will propose amendments to the Localism Bill to introduce a third party right of appeal in the planning system. [79198]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answers he was given on this issue on 17 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 537W, and 29 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 480W.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions his Department has had with leaders of local authorities on the implications of the draft National Planning Policy Framework. [79319]

Greg Clark: Ministers and officials have been meeting with a wide range of organisations on the draft National Planning Policy Framework, including leaders of local authorities. The Local Government Association and individual authorities have made submissions to the consultation.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department plans to publish its response to the draft National Planning Policy Framework Consultation. [79324]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) today (PQ 78936).

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses his Department received to its consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. [79430]

Greg Clark: We have received over 14,000 responses to the consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework.

By way of comparison, the 2007 Planning White Paper generated over 32,000 responses, and the south-east plan, 7,000.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effect of the draft National Planning Policy Framework on business and industry. [79787]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government meet regularly with Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss a range of matters.

Information on the anticipated effect of the draft National Planning Policy Framework on business and industry is set out within the Consultation Stage Impact Assessment.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he made of the number of residents interested in producing local and neighbourhood plans prior to the publication of the draft National Planning Policy Framework. [79991]

Greg Clark: We have launched the neighbourhood planning front runner programme, which currently has 126 projects under way, with communities working closely with local councils on the future of their area. We have recently received more than 100 applications to join the next wave of front runners.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he made of the average cost of producing a local and neighbourhood plan. [79995]

Greg Clark: An impact assessment for neighbourhood plans and community right to build was published on 31 January 2011 and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1829678.pdf

Planning: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what means his Department plans to monitor the use by local authorities of the planning system to protect biodiversity. [79999]

Robert Neill: We are removing the need for local authorities to submit annual monitoring reports on their local plans to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The future emphasis will be on reporting progress on local plans to local people in the interests of local transparency and accountability. In the consultation draft of the National Planning Policy Framework we proposed that planning policies should identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity. Nationally, the Government's proposals for monitoring biodiversity are explained in the Natural Environment White Paper and include periodically publishing a single, concise and integrated report about the state of the environment on land.

Property Development

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on owners who have undertaken unauthorised developments to a property then carrying out permitted developments on that property. [80497]

Robert Neill: Local councils have a range of discretionary enforcement powers to rectify breaches of planning control. Many permitted development rights, including those for dwelling houses, enable certain types of development to be undertaken with reference to the 'original building'. Unlawful works would not count as part of the 'original building', and permitted development rights may therefore not apply. Local councils are also able to withdraw permitted development rights in response to local circumstances.

Regeneration: Liverpool

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on funding *(a)* all or *(b)* some of the projects included in the regeneration strategy for the Liverpool City Region published by Lord Heseltine and Sir Terry Leahy; and what projects in the report his Department plans to fund. [78743]

Greg Clark: My right hon. and noble Friend Lord Heseltine's and Sir Terry Leahy's report into the economic opportunities for Liverpool is an independent report and not intended to be bound by established Government policy. The issues raised by the report will be considered in the context of the work the Minister with responsibility for cities is undertaking as part of his work with the eight core cities, to help them maximise their growth potential.

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost is of the projects contained in the regeneration strategy for the Liverpool City Region published by Lord Heseltine and Sir Terry Leahy. [78744]

Greg Clark: My right hon. and noble Friend Lord Heseltine's and Sir Terry Leahy's independent report into the economic opportunities for Liverpool is not a Government report and so no Government costing has been made of the proposals it contains.

Social Rented Housing

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of houses that have been approved for development through the planning system but have not as yet been built in each local authority area. [79646]

Andrew Stunell: The number of dwellings where permission has been granted but where development has not yet started as at 30 September 2011 is estimated at 255,670 units. A table giving the breakdown by local authority has been deposited in the Library of the House. This information is collected by Glenigan on behalf of the Homes and Communities Agency. These outstanding planning permissions amount to just over one year's projected average annual household growth (232,000 household per annum until 2033).

Sustainable Development

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of sustainable development his Department uses. [80000]

Robert Neill: The classic definition of sustainable definition, set out by the Brundtland Commission, is development that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is reflected in the Government's vision for sustainable development published in February 2011 and by this Department in its work including the consultation draft of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 15 November 2011

SCOTLAND

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80177]

David Mundell: Since May 2010, the Scotland Office has not awarded any contracts for design services.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80210]

David Mundell: During 2010-11, the Scotland Office incurred no expenditure on design in respect of logos, buildings, advertising, stationery or campaigns.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80718]

David Mundell: In the last Parliament there were two applications:

(1) Derek Traynor and James Fisher raised petitions for judicial review against the Secretary of State for Scotland and Scottish Ministers in respect of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007. The applications were unsuccessful at first instance in the Court of Session, the petitioners appealed, and the appeals remain pending at their request. The legal costs incurred by the Secretary of State for Scotland to date are £4.555.50.

(2) The Taxpayers Alliance applied for permission to bring judicial review against the Secretary of State for Scotland in respect of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games Act 2008 (Games Association Right) Order 2009. The application was refused. The Scotland Office's legal costs were £7,080. The Scotland Office applied for costs against the applicant. Costs were awarded in part and they have been paid.

There have been no applications for judicial review against the Scotland Office since May 2010.

Sovereignty

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he has received on the status of Scotland within the EU should Scotland become an independent state. [80112]

David Mundell: I have not received formal representations on the possible status of an independent Scotland within the EU.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80178]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, my Department has not awarded any new contracts for design services.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80209]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for my Department as it is now configured are not available before 12 April 2010 following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions.

In June 2010, the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI), which while operating independently of the Northern Ireland Office, is part of the Department for accounting purposes, spent £2,420 on the design of Electoral ID cards.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the level of entrepreneurism in the cultural sector; and what steps he is taking to ensure funding by his Department is linked to the creation of growth and jobs in that sector; [80213]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the potential for growth in the arts and culture sector. [80214]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has not collated information on the level of entrepreneurism in the cultural sector.

In July this year, Arts Council England published 'Supporting the growth in the arts economy', available at:

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/publication_archive/supporting-growth-arts-economy

This report identifies the opportunities to maximise the benefits for the creative economy through better targeted public investment in the arts sector.

Arts Council England is contributing to the arts sector skills needed for the creative industries, as set out in the Arts Council's Plan 2011-15.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking to increase the number of purpose-built buildings and studios for the creative industries in each of the English regions; [80745]

(2) what assessment he has made of the availability of purpose-built workspaces for office and studio users in the creative industries in each region. [80790]

Mr Vaizey: We are aware of much good work being undertaken in the private sector on providing flexible incubation spaces for creative industries, for example, the network of Hub spaces in London or iShed in Bristol, to name just two. The Government have also undertaken work through Tech City to provide additional incubation workspaces for creative companies in London.

Arts Council England has provided grants for artists' spaces through their 2001 Arts Capital programme and the 2003 Grants for the arts—capital programmes. This has included ACME Studios to funding purpose-built artist studio space in Harrow, Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Brent:

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/rfo/acme-studios/

and

http://www.acme.org.uk

and

Wysing Arts in Cambridge:

http://www.wysingarts.org

It has also refurbished existing artist workspaces (e.g. Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud) and converted existing non-arts buildings into artist workspaces (e.g. High Bridge Studios and Gallery, Newcastle).

The £180 million large-scale capital programme launched by the Arts Council on 1 November 2011 prioritises the improved resilience and sustainability of existing arts infrastructure rather than funding for new, purpose-built buildings or artist studio spaces.

Arts Council England

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on music education of reductions in the budget of Arts Council England. [79848]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Funding for music education is primarily the responsibility of the Department for Education. Arts organisations funded by Arts Council England, which play a role in supporting and enhancing the delivery of music education, will continue to deliver a first rate offer. Its new Bridge network, including Sage Gateshead and the Royal Opera House, will develop vital links between schools and arts organisations from April next year. Between them, the Bridge network organisations will receive £10 million per year.

This is being achieved through an increase in lottery funding of 43% over the next four years, and limiting the savings required from the Arts Council's front-line grant to 15% over the same period.

Bids will shortly be invited for Arts Council England's £45 million Touring Programme, which will be open to bids from a broad range of artforms, including organisations that could deliver music education projects across the country.

Cultural Quarter

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he is taking steps to support the Cultural Quarter at *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Eastside, *(c)* Southampton, *(d)* Doncaster, *(e)* Leicester and *(f)* Colchester. [80787]

Mr Vaizey: I attended and spoke at the Birmingham Creative City Launch on 25 October 2011, bringing together people from local businesses, arts and the local enterprise partnership with the aim to increase the area's economic output by 30% (£8.25 billion) and create 100,000 private sector jobs by 2020.

This year Arts Council England has invested £97,704 regular funding in Birmingham City University and an additional £24,536 through grants for the arts to Eastside Projects Limited. On 31 March 2011 the National Portfolio decisions were announced by the Art Council England and consolidated the University and Eastside Projects Limited who will receive an award of £122,704.

Arts Council England has offered Southampton city council £349,302 and Doncaster metropolitan borough council £43,758 from 2012-2015 as part of their National Portfolio. It has also made a capital investment of £7.2 million to deliver an arts complex across the larger Grosvenor and Southampton city council development, and £2.1 million to deliver a new performance venue in Doncaster.

Leicester's Cultural Quarter hosts the Curve and Phoenix Square. The Curve will receive more than £5.7 million for 2012-15 from Arts Council England. From April 2012 Phoenix Square will receive more than £245,000 over a three year period to develop its programme of world-class digital art. In addition, Phoenix Square has received a national lottery grant for the arts award for £10,000 for a new media artist-in-residence project and resulting exhibition programme running between January and March 2012.

The partnership between Colchester borough council (£4.25 million), Essex county council (£6.5 million), the University of Essex (£1 million), the East of England Development Agency (£6.24 million) and Arts Council England (£9.25 million) has delivered a £28 million capital investment in Firstsite, an international art gallery supporting many creative businesses and artists who work in the locality and increasing visitor numbers. Arts Council England is working closely with Colchester borough council and other public and private sector partners to establish the next phase of the quarter through the proposed development of a creative business centre, which, it is hoped, will grow their creative business profile and contribute to the vibrancy of the local economy.

Culture: Education

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the level of access to cultural education providers in each region; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such provision on regional arts organisations. [80788]

Mr Vaizey: Cultural education providers include a diverse range of organisations, including schools, further and higher education institutions, and the voluntary, community and private sectors. They encompass cultural forms as diverse as architecture and the built environment, archives, craft, dance, design, digital arts, drama and theatre, film, heritage, literature, museums, music, poetry and the visual arts. Regional arts organisations are part of this infrastructure.

This Department measures children's and adult's levels of engagement with cultural activities through the Taking Part survey. The latest adult and child findings can be found at:

www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8398.aspx

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80709]

John Penrose: The information requested for part *(a)* is not held centrally by this Department, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The Department does not record centrally the number of times it has been taken to court or the number of decisions taken by the Department that were subject to a judicial review and the outcome of each case.

However, I am able to confirm with regard to part *(b)*, there have been three occasions since 6 May 2010 where an application of permission for judicial review has been sought where my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport or his predecessor, has been the defendant.

Of these, permission to apply for judicial review was granted on one occasion. In the High Court, judgment was decided 93% in the Department for Culture, Media and Sports' favour. There is an appeal pending in the Court of Appeal.

The second application was refused permission. The third application was withdrawn before the application was determined.

In addition to the above, the Secretary of State is an interested party in another application for permission to judicial review. The application has not yet been determined, and is next before the court on 14 December.

The Secretary of State was in addition party to a group of proceedings which have now been settled.

Finally, the Secretary of State has been added as a third party to a set of proceedings which are not technically classified as a judicial review but we are treating the case as if it were because a public law challenge has been brought. The case has been settled. The Department's expenditure on legal advice for the years 2006-07 to 2011-12 is set out in the table.

We are unable to provide the information in the manner requested because we do not separately record costs incurred for judicial reviews, and they are not readily identifiable from overall external legal costs expenditure.

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2011-12	958,691
2010-11	1,706,527
2009-10	2,536,095
2008-09	2,499,831
2007-08	2,262,809
2006-07	2,540,994

Michael Hintze

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to his answer of 9 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 318-19W, on Adam Werritty, what the nature was of the meeting between the Minister with responsibility for culture, communications and creative industries and Michael Hintze on 21 July 2011; where the meeting took place; whether any civil servants were present; and who arranged for the meeting to take place. [81358]

Mr Vaizey: My meeting with Mr Michael Hintze on 21 July 2011 was a private meeting and no civil servants were present. The meeting took place in the Department and was arranged by my ministerial office and Michael Hintze's office.

Michael Hintze is a philanthropist who gives generously to a range of arts bodies, including an exceptional gift of £2 million from the Hintze Family Charitable Foundation to the National Gallery, announced in January of this year.

Olympic Games 2012: Roads

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what (1) steps his Department plans to take to support the tourist industry in central London during proposed road closures during the London 2012 Olympic games; [79730]

(2) estimate his Department has made of the cost to the tourist industry in central London of the proposed road closures to non-Olympic traffic during the London 2012 Olympic games. [79731]

Hugh Robertson: There are no plans for widespread road closures in central London for the 2012 games. Roads will be closed at certain times for planned road events, such as the Marathon, and a handful of roads will be closed to allow for the efficient and secure management of the sporting venues. Other than this, none of the roads on the Olympic route network (ORN) will be closed because, where games lanes are implemented, there will always be at least one other lane open to general traffic.

Hosting the games is a huge logistical challenge. London 2012 and Transport for London are running an extensive programme of engagement with London's boroughs, residents and businesses in the run-up to the games. In particular, they are working with the tourism industry to help it make sensible preparations to make the most of the games and help manage demand for transport.

The Department is committed to ensuring that the tourism industry maximises the economic benefits provided by the games. VisitBritain will be investing around £127 million in a new international marketing programme and we have recently announced a new campaign, which will be launched next year by VisitEngland, to use the games to boost domestic tourism.

Sports: Clubs

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding his Department provides for independent sports clubs running programmes for children. [80372]

Hugh Robertson: The Department does not directly award funding to sports clubs. The day to day decision making on funding would fall to the lottery distributors. The financial support available to community sports clubs is primarily channelled through Sport England's Whole Sport Plans for the National Governing Bodies, county sports partnerships and local authorities.

Theatres: Voluntary Work

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people in each region volunteered in *(a)* theatres, *(b)* museums, *(c)* art galleries and *(d)* national heritage sites in each year from 1997 to July 2010. [80811]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Data from the Taking Part survey show the following percentage of adults in England who engaged in volunteering in each year from 2005-06:

	Percentage of adults
2005-06	23.8
2006-07	24.0
2007-08	24.0
2008-09	25.0
2009-10	[1]—
2010-11	24.2

[1] No data available.

Of those who volunteered, the following percentage of adults volunteered in arts, museums/galleries and heritage:

			Percentage
	Arts	*Museums/ galleries*	*Heritage*
2005-06	6.3	1.4	4.9
2006-07	5.9	1.1	4.2
2007-08	7.0	1.2	4
2008-09	6.4	1.1	4.7
2009-10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2010-11	8.1	1.4	4.2

[1] No data available.
Source:
Taking Part survey.

This information is also available on this Department's website and can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.dcms.gov.uk/publications/8462.aspx

Regional volunteering data for the sectors requested are not available.

Information prior to this is not collated centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Data Protection

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Attorney-General what steps the Law Officers Departments are taking to prevent the online dissemination of information relating to ongoing court cases. [80646]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers Departments are not responsible for policing the content of the internet. Our Departments, for example the Crown Prosecution Service, will raise concerns with publishers of online material relating to ongoing court cases where a publication risks breaching reporting restrictions or amounting to contempt of court. This could also be done at the request of the court. Where a contempt is thought to have been committed the Department will raise that with the court so it may consider referring the matter to the Attorney-General or me for possible action.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament Week: Costs

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost to the public purse was of running Parliament week in November 2011. [81066]

John Thurso: The cost of Parliament week 2011 is forecast to be £35,000. As a new national initiative, most of the Parliament week budget has been dedicated to set-up costs, including the costs associated with the design of a new website at:

www.parliamentweek.org

We anticipate this cost being significantly lower in future years. In addition, other teams across Parliament (such as parliamentary outreach and the education service) have run events and activities to coincide with Parliament week, all of which were met using existing budgets.

Data Security

Karl McCartney: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what measures are in place to help prevent the unauthorised monitoring of telephone conversations on the parliamentary estate. [80590]

John Thurso: Telephone systems are maintained and their software regularly updated. Voicemail is password protected. A range of other security measures protects users' data, but we do not comment on specific security arrangements.

Karl McCartney: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what measures are in place to help prevent unauthorised monitoring of e-mails and data held on computers on the parliamentary estate. [80591]

John Thurso: The e-mail system is maintained and regularly updated. A range of other security measures protects users' data, but we do not comment on specific security arrangements.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Correspondence

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to complete his inquiries and respond to the letters of 4 December and 8 December 2010 from the hon. Member for Bassetlaw. [80513]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Manpower

Mr Watts: To ask the Prime Minister how many unpaid special advisers and policy advisers work in each Government Department; and what the name is of each such adviser. [80411]

The Prime Minister: An updated list of special advisers is published quarterly. This is available on the Cabinet Office website:

> http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Departmental organisation charts, along with details of senior staff, can be accessed on departmental websites.

EDUCATION

Academies: Standards

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what intervention mechanisms are available to him should *(a)* an academy and *(b)* a free school be found by the regulator to be offering a sub-standard level of education. [78383]

Mr Gibb: The intervention powers of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education in respect of academies and free schools are set out in each academy's or free school's Articles of Association and Funding Agreement.

For all academies and free schools which have opened on the Department's standard terms since September 2010, the Articles ensure that the Secretary of State can appoint additional governors to take over control of poorly performing academies. These additional governors can be appointed where an academy has failed to comply with a warning notice which the Secretary of State issued on the grounds that

> "the standards of performance of pupils at an Academy are unacceptably low".

Additional governors can alternatively be appointed where an academy has dropped by two Ofsted grades in a five year period or where a school which is in special measures is judged by Ofsted to have made inadequate progress at its next inspection and the Secretary of State is not satisfied with the academy's proposed action plan.

The Funding Agreement also provides that the Secretary of State can terminate the Funding Agreement where the academy is in special measures, is judged by Ofsted to have made inadequate progress at the first monitoring report and the Secretary of State is dissatisfied with the academy's proposed Action Plan.

Care to Learn Programme

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will guarantee that the budget for the Care to Learn programme will not be reduced over the next spending period regardless of the results of his Department's consultation on Care to Learn. [77984]

Mr Gibb: We expect the Care to Learn budget to rise across the spending review period, as we move towards the raising of the participation age to 17 in 2013 and to 18 in 2015.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will guarantee that the payments to people from the Care to Learn programme will not be reduced as a result of his Department's consultation on Care to Learn. [77985]

Mr Gibb: In consulting on the future of the Care to Learn programme we made clear that our preferred option was to avoid any changes to payment rates under the scheme. The consultation closed on 28 October 2011. All comments are being considered, and a summary report on the responses to the consultation will be published later in the year on the Department for Education consultation website.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged *(a)* 19 and *(b)* 20 years receive funding through the Care to Learn scheme by (i) constituency and (ii) local authority area. [78713]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which operates the Care to Learn allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Leicester West with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener dated 7 November 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ78713 that asked:

> "How many people aged (a) 19 and (b) 20 years receive funding through the Care to Learn scheme by (i) constituency and (ii) local authority area."

The number of people aged 19 and 20 years who received funding through the Care to Learn scheme in the 2010/11 academic year was 1882 and 237 respectively. I have attached a breakdown of these figures by local authority area. These are take-up figures as at 31 August 2011.

This information is not available by constituency.

National figures—All care to learn take-up for 2010/11 academic year—August 2011

	Age	
Local authority area:	*19 years*	*20 years*
Barking and Dagenham	13	0
Barnet	7	1
Barnsley	6	0
Bath and North East Somerset	1	0
Bedford	18	1
Bexley	3	1
Birmingham	48	3

National figures—All care to learn take-up for 2010/11 academic year—August 2011

	Age	
Local authority area:	*19 years*	*20 years*
Blackburn with Darwen	10	1
Blackpool	13	2
Bolton	21	1
Bournemouth	1	0
Bracknell Forest	4	1
Bradford	19	4
Brent	15	3
Brighton and Hove	4	2
Bristol	23	4
Bromley	8	0
Buckinghamshire	4	3
Bury	7	2
Calderdale	11	0
Cambridgeshire	16	1
Camden	0	1
Central Bedfordshire	7	1
Cheshire East	12	1
Cheshire West and Chester	13	4
City of London	0	0
Cornwall	30	1
Coventry	21	1
Croydon	30	8
Cumbria	13	1
Darlington	13	1
Derby	14	1
Derbyshire	23	3
Devon	17	1
Doncaster	10	1
Dorset	5	1
Dudley	2	1
Durham	28	5
Ealing	8	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	7	1
East Sussex	14	0
Enfield	15	2
Essex	15	2
Gateshead	10	2
Gloucestershire	20	4
Greenwich	6	1
Hackney	17	1
Halton	9	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	5	1
Hampshire	24	4
Haringey	4	0
Harrow	0	1
Hartlepool	7	1
Havering	5	2
Herefordshire	2	0
Hertfordshire	15	2
Hillingdon	11	1
Hounslow	6	2
Isle of Wight	8	4
Isles of Scilly	0	0
Islington	7	4
Kensington and Chelsea	4	0
Kent	36	3
Kingston upon Hull	13	2
Kingston upon Thames	1	0
Kirklees	18	2
Knowsley	12	1
Lambeth	15	1
Lancashire	59	8
Leeds	31	5
Leicester	16	5
Leicestershire	22	3
Lewisham	26	4
Lincolnshire	25	0
Liverpool	24	0
Luton	9	0
Manchester	24	1
Medway	8	1
Merton	6	2
Middlesbrough	7	0
Milton Keynes	19	4
Newcastle upon Tyne	14	1
Newham	9	0
Norfolk	9	1
North East Lincolnshire	10	0
North Lincolnshire	3	1
North Somerset	4	0
North Tyneside	14	0
North Yorkshire	15	1
Northamptonshire	27	0
Northumberland	8	1
Nottingham	22	1
Nottinghamshire	37	1
Oldham	29	3
Oxfordshire	20	1
Peterborough	6	2
Plymouth	8	3
Poole	3	0
Portsmouth	6	1
Reading	12	1
Redbridge	17	1
Redcar and Cleveland	7	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	0
Rochdale	20	2
Rotherham	5	1
Rutland	1	0
Salford	7	3
Sandwell	21	1
Sefton	12	1
Sheffield	15	4
Shropshire	6	2
Slough	3	0
Solihull	3	0
Somerset	10	5
South Gloucestershire	6	1
South Tyneside	6	0
Southampton	4	0
Southend on Sea	7	0
Southwark	19	4
St Helens	8	1
Staffordshire	21	6
Stockport	24	2
Stockton-on-Tees	5	0
Stoke-on-Trent	12	0
Suffolk	10	3
Sunderland	16	0
Surrey	9	3

National figures—All care to learn take-up for 2010/11 academic year—August 2011

	Age	
Local authority area:	*19 years*	*20 years*
Sutton	9	2
Swindon	6	0
Tameside	15	2
Telford and Wrekin	5	2
Thurrock	2	0
Torbay	6	1
Tower Hamlets	4	2
Trafford	8	2
Wakefield	12	2
Walsall	21	0
Waltham Forest	5	1
Wandsworth	4	1
Warrington	6	2
Warwickshire	19	3
West Berkshire	5	0
West Sussex	13	5
Westminster	5	0
Wigan	34	0
Wiltshire	15	3
Windsor and Maidenhead	1	0
Wirral	14	1
Wokingham	1	0
Wolverhampton	11	3
Worcestershire	23	5
York	11	0
Unmapped[1]	17	1
Grand Total	1882	237

[1] Individuals unassigned to a local authority.

Child Protection

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what date he expects the recommendations of Professor Munro's Review of Child Protection to be fully implemented. [80930]

Tim Loughton: Professor Munro's review of child protection was the very first review established in the Department for Education, on 10 June 2010, underlining the priority the Government place on getting child protection right. Professor Munro's recommendations emphasise the importance of system-wide reform. There are no quick fixes; nor is there a one off set of solutions to be imposed from the centre.

The Government's response to Professor Munro's review, published on 13 July 2011, signalled the start of a shift in mindset and an essential re-balancing in the relationship between central Government and local government, local agencies and frontline professionals. Our aim, working in partnership with the sector, is to create the conditions for sustained, long-term reform which enables and inspires professionals to do their best for vulnerable children and their families.

The Government's approach to the reform of the child protection system is driven by three key principles:

trusting skilled frontline professionals to use their professional judgment;

reducing bureaucracy and prescription to give professionals more time and space to work directly with children and families; and

above all, being child-centred.

We want to build a child protection system where the focus is very firmly on the experience of the child or young person's journey from needing to receiving help.

The Government response set out indicative timescales for responding to Professor Munro's recommendations in the short to medium term in order to establish a clear framework for future progress. We made clear that local leaders would need to determine the pace of reform in their areas in order to deliver the system-wide change needed to deliver lasting improvements.

Professor Munro will undertake an interim assessment of progress in spring 2012.

Children's Centres

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children attended Sure Start centres in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral, *(c)* the north-west region, *(d)* England and *(e)* the UK in (i) 2011 and (ii) each of the last five years. [80796]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Department does not collect this information. Local authorities in England have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient children's centres in their area to meet local need, so far as is reasonably practicable. It is for local authorities to commission children's centres and to monitor and evaluate the use and impact of their services. Responsibility for early education and child care in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland rests with the devolved Administrations.

Education Maintenance Allowance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will list the title of each research paper, study and other source of evidence drawn on by his Department in reaching the decision to end the education maintenance allowance. [78389]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 November 2011]:* When making the decision to end the education maintenance allowance (EMA), the Department for Education drew upon a range of internal and external resources.

The Department considered independent evaluation and research which had been commissioned by the previous Government. This includes a number of reports on the EMA pilot which were undertaken by a consortium led by the Centre for Research into Social Policy (CRSP) and involving the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the National Centre for Social Research. The main reports referred to were:

Ashworth, K., Hardman, J., Hartfree, Y., Maguire, S., Middleton, S., Smith, D., Dearden, L., Emmerson, C, Frayne, C, Meghir, C. (2002), "Education Maintenance Allowance: The First Two Years: A Quantitative Evaluation", Department for Education and Skills Research Report 352; and

Chowdry, H., Dearden, L. and Emmerson, C. (2007) "Education Maintenance Allowance: Evaluation with Administrative Data—The Impact of the EMA pilots on participation and attainment in post-compulsory education", Institute for Fiscal Studies/Learning and Skills Council.

These reports, and other evaluation evidence, are available at:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/evaluation-reports/

The Department also considered research into barriers to participation (including financial barriers), which was undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research, working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research: (Spielhofer et al (2010) "Barriers to Participation in Education and Training; DFE RR009". This is available at

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RR009.pdf

Beyond these primary reports and sources of evidence, analysis underpinning the decision to end EMA drew on a wide range of published research, as follows:

Aitken, G.; P. Byram; G. Whalley and D. Moore. (2007). "Evaluation of the EMA National Roll-out".

Allan, T.; M. Campbell and K. Latimer (2009). "Evaluation of the 2008-09 EMA Policy Changes".

Allen, T.; B. Dobson; J. Hardman; S. Maguire; S. Middleton; J. Graham; K. Woodfield; M. Maguire. (2003). "Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots for Vulnerable Young People and Childcare Pilots: Implementation and Reported Impacts in the First Year".

Ashworth, K; J. Hardman; W. Liu; S. Maguire; S. Middleton; L. Dearden; C. Emmerson; C. Frayne; A. Goodman; H. Ichimura and C. Meghir. (2001). "Education Maintenance Allowance: The First Year—A Quantitative Evaluation".

Burgess, M. (2009). "Evaluation of the New Criteria for Provision Associated with the Education Maintenance Allowance": Learning and Skills Council: York Consulting: March 2009.

Curs, B. R; L.D. Singell. and G.R. Waddell. (2007). "Money for Nothing? The Impact of Changes in the Pell Grant Program on Institutional Revenues and the Placement of Need Students".

DCSF, (2009). "Youth Cohort Study and Longitudinal Study of Young People in England: the Activities and Experiences of 17 year olds: England 2008".

Dearden, L; Emmerson, C; Frayne, C. and Meghir, C. (2008). Conditional Cash Transfers and School Dropout Rates. "The Journal of Human Resources", 44 (4). Pp. 827-857.

DFE (2007). "Schools and Pupils in England, January 2006".

Dobson, B. J. Hardman; S. Maguire; S. Middleton; T. Allen; J. Graham; E. Hill; K. Woodfield; M. Maguire. (2003). "Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots for Vulnerable Young People and Childcare Pilots: Implementation and Reported impacts in the First Two Years (2000-2001/2001-2002)".

Feinstein, L. and R. Sabates. (2005). "Education and Youth Crime: Effects of Introducing the Education Maintenance Allowance Programme—Research Brief".

Finn, D. and Branosky, N. (2004). "Financial support for 16 to 19 year olds: A review of the literature and evidence on the Australian Youth Allowance".

Fletcher, M. (2009). "Perspective: should we end the Education Maintenance Allowance?"

Heaver, C; M. Maguire; S. Middleton; S. Maguire; R. Youngs; B. Dobson; J. Hardman. (2002). "Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: Leeds and London first Year Evidence".

Home Office (2004). "The Reducing Burglary Initiative: design, development and delivery: Home Office Research Study 287".

Ianelli, C; J. Ozga; L, Croxford. and C. Howieson. (2002). "Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA): Evaluation of the Easy Ayrshire Pilot".

Ipsos MORI and Experian (2008). "Evaluation of the Extension of the Education Maintenance Allowance to Entry-to-Employment and Programme Led Apprenticeships".

Knight, T. and C. White. (2003). "The Reflections of Early Leavers and Second Year Participants on the Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme: A Qualitative Study".

Legard, R.; K. Woodfield and C. White. (2001). "Staying away or staying on? A qualitative evaluation of the Education Maintenance Allowance—Research Brief".

LSC (2009). "Learner Support Programme: EMA Valid Provision Criteria 2009/10: September 2009".

Maguire, S., Thompson, J., Hillage, J., Dewson, S., Miller, L., Johnson, C., Newton, B., Bates, P. and Page, R. (2009) "Activity Agreement Pilots Process Evaluation" DCSF-RR095

Maguire, S. (2008). Paying young people to learn—does it work? "Research in Post-Compulsory Education", 13 (2). Pp. 205-215.

Maguire, M.; S. Maguire and J. Vincent. (2001). "Implementation of the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: the First Year". Research Brief.

Maguire, S.; M. Maguire and C. Heaver. (2002). "Implementation of the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: the Second Year".

Maguire, S. and M. Maguire. (2003). "Implementation of the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: the Third Year (2001/02)".

Maguire, S. and M. Maguire. (2004). "Implementation of the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: the Fourth Year".

Maguire, S. and J. Rennison. (2005). Two Years On: The Destinations of Young People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training at 16. "Journal of Youth Studies", 8(2). Pp. 187-201.

Maguire, S. and S. Middleton. (2006). "Young People and the Labour Market: Evidence from the EMA Pilots Database".

Maguire, S., Thompson, J. and Middleton, S. (2006). "Paying young people to stay on at school—does it work? Evidence from the evaluation of the piloting of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)": SKOPE Research Paper No. 69, December 2006: University of Warwick.

Mercer, C. (2008). "Federal Pell Grant Program of the Higher Education Act: Background and Reauthorisation".

Middleton, S.; S. Maguire; K. Ashworth; K. Legge; T. Allen; K. Perrin; E. Battistin; L Dearden; C. Emmerson; E. Fitzsimons and C. Meghir. (2003). "The Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: Three Years Evidence—A Quantitative Evaluation".

Middleton, S.; K. Perren; S. Maguire; J. Rennison; E. Battistin; C. Emmerson and E. Fitzsimons. (2005). "Evaluation of Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots: Young People Aged 16 to 19 Years—Final Report of the Quantitative Evaluation".

Middleton, S.; J. Rennison; A. Cebulla; K. Perren and S. De-Beaman. (2005a). "Young People from Ethnic Minority Backgrounds: Evidence from the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots Database".

Mundel, D. and Rice, L. (2008). "The Impact of Increases in Pell Grant Awards on College-going among Lower Income Youth".

Perren, K.; S. Middleton; C. Emmerson. (2003). Education Maintenance Allowance Transport Pilots—Quantitative Findings from Years 1 and 2 (2001-2002/2002-2003)".

Perren, K. and S. Middleton. (2005). "Teenage Mothers and Young People with Special Needs: Evidence from the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots Database".

Rennison, J.; S. Maguire; S. Middleton and K. Ashworth. (2005). "Young People not in Education, Employment or Training: Evidence from the Education Maintenance Allowance Pilots Database—Research Brief".

Slavin, R.E. (2009). "Can Financial Incentives Enhance Educational Outcomes? Evidence from International Experiments". Institute for Effective Education, University of York and John Hopkins University.

Tanner, E., Purdon, S., D'Souza, J. and Finch, S. (2009) "Activity Agreement Pilots: Quantitative Evaluation" DCSF-RR096

Tanner, E., Purdon, S., Taylor, E., Finch, S., Maguire, M. (2010) "Activity Agreement Pilots—Follow up survey of 2007-2008 participants" DCSF-RR010 WEB

York Consulting (2007). "Young people's awareness and experience of Educational Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and their impact on choices and pathways".

York Consulting (2009). "Evaluation of the New Criteria for Provision Associated with the Education Maintenance Allowance".

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the outcome of the consideration he gave under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 to the impact of establishing the free schools that opened in September 2011. [71565]

Mr Gibb: Under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 the Secretary of State for Education my right hon. Friend is under a duty to consider the impact of establishing a new school on maintained schools, academies and further education institutions in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated. This consideration includes free schools. Additionally any group whose proposal for a free school is progressed is required to consult locally on their proposals. When deciding whether or not to enter into a funding agreement the Secretary of State will take a range of views into account, alongside the impact assessment.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many free schools are expected to be open by *(a)* 2012 and *(b)* 2015; [74643]

(2) how many free schools are operational; and how many plan to open in the academic year 2011-12; [74644]

(3) how many pupils are attending free schools. [74645]

Mr Gibb: We estimate that over 3,000 pupils have enrolled during the first intake for the 24 free schools that opened in September 2011. This means that these schools are on course to reach their full capacity in the coming years. Further information about the number of children on roll at each school will be collected in the school census and published in due course. There are no plans to open further free schools in the current academic year, but the Department has completed the process of assessing the applications it has received to establish mainstream free schools in September 2012. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education made an oral statement to the House on 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 62-64, to announce that a further 55 mainstream free schools have been approved to move to the next stage of development. These schools will join eight mainstream free schools already in the pipeline for opening in 2012. A further number of proposals for alternative provision and special free schools are under consideration.

There will be further application rounds for groups hoping to open free schools in 2013 and beyond. The number of successful proposals in the future will depend on the quality of the proposals and the level of demand from parents and other groups.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 81W, on free schools: West London, when he expects to publish the funding agreement for the West London free school. [79469]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* The funding agreement for the West London free school will be published in due course.

Free Schools: West London

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any payment of grant has been made to the West London free school. [79451]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* Since opening in September, the West London free school has been receiving monthly payments of General Annual Grant (GAG) which is based on providing funding per pupil equivalent to that received by other state-funded schools in the same local authority area. The school has also been paid grant funding to help meet some development costs such as employing a principal designate ahead of opening, purchasing books and equipment, and meeting the costs of employing senior staff while the school builds up from the single year group admitted this September.

Life Skills

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to take any steps to promote Drinkaware's In:tuition life skills programme. [79275]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The work of the Alcohol Network of the Public Health Responsibility Deal launched on 15 March 2011 has, as one if its aims, support for the education of young people about the harms of alcohol misuse and the importance of delaying the onset of drinking. The Alcohol Network sub-group responsible for developing the pledge which addresses this issue is currently considering appropriate evidence-based programmes which look to be best placed to support this aim.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to take any steps to promote Drinkaware's In:tuition life skills programme. [79276]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* It is not the role of government to promote particular programmes. However, the work of the Alcohol Network of the Public Health Responsibility Deal launched on 15 March 2011 has, as one if its aims, support for the education of young people about the harms of alcohol misuse and the importance of delaying the onset of drinking. The Alcohol Network sub-group responsible for developing the pledge which addresses this issue is currently considering appropriate evidence-based programmes which look to be best placed to support this aim.

Local Government Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he plans to require local authorities to give consideration to the use of a space for other community services when considering closing such services; [80909]

(2) whether his revised statutory guidance on Sure Start children's centres will *(a)* retain the presumption against closure and *(b)* ensure local authorities demonstrate that outcomes for children will not be adversely affected before decisions on closure are taken. [80910]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The revised statutory guidance will not change the legislative framework within which Sure Start children's centres operate. Local authorities will continue to have a legal duty to ensure there are sufficient children's centres in their localities, and to demonstrate that outcomes for children will not be affected. Revised statutory guidance will be published for consultation later on in the year and hon. Members will be given the opportunity to respond to that consultation. Further, the Localism Bill includes new rights for local communities, including the Community Right to Buy. If listed assets come up for sale, communities will have extra time to prepare a bid to take them over, making it easier to keep assets in public use and part of local life. Important local amenities and buildings, such as old town halls, community halls or children's centres, can be nominated for listing by the local authority as assets of community value. Where a local authority sells, transfers or changes the use of capital assets funded by the Department, the Department is likely to 'claw back' that funding. However, the Department may defer clawback where an asset continues to be used for a purpose relevant to the original capital grant. These deferrals are assessed on a case by case basis.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons funding for the pupil premium has doubled for 2011-12. [79329]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* On 12 October 2011, the Government announced that the pupil premium for free school meal pupils, and looked-after children, will increase from £430 per pupil to £488 per pupil in 2011-12. The money has been released because fewer children than originally estimated have registered for free school meals this year. Total expenditure on the pupil premium will be £625 million in 2011-12, doubling to £1.25 billion in 2012-13. It will rise again each year until 2014-15 when it will be worth £2.5 billion. The Government are committed to this funding as evidence shows that children from low income families generally do not achieve as well as pupils from more advantaged backgrounds. Schools receive this additional funding on top of the existing school budget to support these children to reach their potential and help schools reduce educational inequalities.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any of the funding allocated for the pupil premium was not taken up in 2010-11. [79453]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011. For 2011-12, £625 million will be allocated to schools and the planned funding will, therefore, be fully taken up. Schools do not have to apply for this funding as it is allocated on a formula basis to eligible pupils using the following per pupil rates:

Type of pupil	*Pupil premium per pupil (£)*
Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	488
Children looked after continuously for six months	488
Children of currently serving members of the armed forces	200

Schools: Admissions

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to publish the revised School Admissions and School Admission Appeals Codes. [77668]

Mr Gibb: The White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", announced our intention to review the School Admissions Code and the Appeals Code, with a view to delivering a simpler, more streamlined admissions process. We consulted between 27 May and 19 August on these draft codes, and received over 1,300 responses, over half from parents.

We published both these codes on 2 November for local information and consultation purposes, alongside the departmental response to the consultation, and will shortly consult on the supporting draft regulations.

We intend to lay the draft codes and regulations before Parliament in December, in order that they are able to come into force in February 2012 in time for the allocation of school places for admission in September 2013.

Schools: Pupils

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to address changes in the number of *(a)* primary school students from 2010 and *(b)* secondary school students from 2016. [76562]

Mr Gibb: It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and changes in demand for primary and secondary school places in their area, and secure a place for every child of statutory school age who wants one. The Department will continue to provide capital funding and monitor the situation with all local authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places.

The Department collects information from each local authority on school capacity in maintained schools through an annual survey, which includes pupil forecast information (five years for primary places and seven years for secondary places). Forecasts are utilised in order to calculate the capital funding allocations to authorities to provide extra places for future growth in pupil numbers. The survey data at May 2010 are available this autumn and will inform future basic need funding allocations.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate has he made of the proportion of *(a)* all maintained schools and *(b)* maintained schools built or refurbished since 2006 which are open plan schools. [77986]

Mr Gibb: Information regarding the proportion of maintained schools which are open plan is not collected centrally or held by the Department. Therefore we are unable to make any estimate of the proportion of maintained schools that are open plan.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to the recommendation contained in the Browne report on higher education funding published in October 2010 that every school should be required to make individualised careers advice available to its pupils, delivered by certified professionals. [79219]

Mr Gibb: To ensure students make well informed choices about their options at 18, they need access to careers advice that is independent and underpinned by objective information and data. We want university applicants to be able to easily understand what a course will cost, what it will contain and where it might lead.

Subject to the passage of the Education Bill, schools will be placed under a new duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils. The Department will publish statutory guidance to support the new duty. This will set a clear expectation that face-to-face careers guidance should be secured where it is the most suitable support, in particular for disadvantaged young people and those with special needs. The guidance will also contain a clear description of the national quality standard for careers guidance which will act as a marker of quality throughout the system and inform the decisions schools and colleges will make when commissioning independent support for young people.

Students: Transport

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has assessed the 2011-12 local authority transport plans for 16 to 18 year olds; and what *(a)* affordable and *(b)* accessible transport is available for this age group. [74750]

Mr Gibb: The Department is undertaking an exercise to establish whether all local authorities have published transport policy statements as required by section 509AA of the Education Act 1996.

Decisions regarding the extent of such arrangements, including the provision of any financial assistance, are for local authorities to make following appropriate consultation. Local authorities know the location of the schools, the colleges and the other providers, they know the transport infrastructure available and they know the young people who need their support.

Teachers: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the participation rate for the teachers' pension scheme was for each pay band in each year from 2006 to 2010. [79533]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* The Department does not hold data on the breakdown of teachers' pension scheme participation rates by pay band. The overall participation rate is, however, very high. The scheme accounts show that over the five-year period in question 14,701 teachers and lecturers opted out of the scheme, against a membership of approximately 650,000.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Balkans

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to visit *(a)* Serbia, *(b)* Macedonia and *(c)* Bosnia. [81201]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 2010 and Serbia in August 2010, but has no current plans to visit Serbia, Macedonia or Bosnia and Herzegovina. In my capacity as Minister for Europe, I have visited all three countries over the last 18 months, in addition to visits to fellow Western Balkan countries Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. I was in Serbia last month (31 October), where I had useful discussions about the country's EU perspective, and the importance of its dialogue with Kosovo.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80057]

Mr Lidington: A full list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published quarterly on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality/

The further information requested is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

British Nationals Abroad: Arrests

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens were arrested in each other EU member state in each of the last 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [81154]

Alistair Burt: In the following financial years, the numbers of British nationals requiring consular assistance after arrest in EU member states were:

	Number
2008-09	3,481
2009-10	3,138
2010-11	2,662

This information was not collated on a central database before 2008. To break down the above figures into each EU member state would incur a disproportionate cost.

Supporting British nationals in difficulty around the world is a priority for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This support is explained in our publication 'Support for British nationals abroad: A guide', available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/support-for-british-nationals-abroad.pdf

When British nationals are arrested, our role is to provide information about the local legal system, including the availability of local English-speaking lawyers, and to support the welfare of the detainee.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the treatment of British nationals seized aboard the MV Saoirse and the Canadian vessel Al-Tahrir on 4 November 2011 by the Israeli navy. [81235]

Alistair Burt: The British embassy in Tel Aviv was made aware of the detention of one British national on 4 November following the interception of the Canadian vessel Al-Tahrir by the Israeli authorities. We were able to secure consular access to visit the individual on 5 November to check on his welfare and continued to do so until his deportation from Israel on 10 November.

British Nationals Abroad: Criminal Proceedings

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted for each type of offence in each non-EU member state in each of the last 10 years. [81103]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* In the following financial years, the numbers of British nationals requiring consular assistance after arrest in non-EU member states were:

	Number
2008-09	3,451
2009-10	3,340
2010-11	3,056

This information was not collated on a central database before 2008. To break down the above figures into those charged and convicted for each type of offence in each non-EU member state would incur a disproportionate cost.

Supporting British nationals in difficulty around the world is a priority for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This support is explained in our publication 'Support for British nationals abroad: A guide', available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/support-for-british-nationals-abroad.pdf

When British nationals are arrested, our role is to provide information about the local legal system, including the availability of local English-speaking lawyers, and to support the welfare of the detainee.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to visit the Democratic Republic of Congo. [80822]

Mr Bellingham: For security and operational reasons we do not comment on or announce visits.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are stationed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [80823]

Mr Bellingham: The FCO has six UK based officials stationed in the DRC. Five are based in Kinshasa and one in Goma in the east of the country.

There are 94 HMG staff based in DRC in total: 41 FCO (six UK, 35 locally engaged), 50 DFID (20 UK, 30 locally engaged), three MOD (two UK, one locally engaged).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [80839]

Mr Bellingham: I have met the DRC Foreign Minister four times in the last 18 months, including when I visited the country in July 2010. We discussed a range of issues including human rights, security, elections, and the UK's support to the country.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department has provided to support the voter registration process in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [80940]

Mr Bellingham: Britain through the Department for International Development has provided £25.4 million since 2008 to the UNDP PACE programme to strengthen the capacity of the National Independent Commission. From this contribution, approximately £11 million has gone towards voter registration.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on a review of the DRC electoral roll ahead of elections in that country. [80941]

Mr Bellingham: We are pushing the Democratic Republic of Congo's electoral commission to ensure all parties have access to the electoral roll and to publish full voter lists on its website and in registration centres. Our officials at the embassy in Kinshasa have raised this with the National Independent Electoral Commission.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many electoral observers from the UK *(a)* will be present in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the forthcoming election and *(b)* were present in the DRC during the election in 2006. [80942]

Mr Bellingham: There will be five UK electoral observers in the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the EU observation mission.

We are working closely with the internationally-recognised monitoring experts in the EU and the Carter

Center to ensure a high-quality network of observers will be in the country before, during and after the election.

In 2006 the UK sent a team of 40 observers led by Chris Mullin MP.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on measures to prevent violent street protests surrounding the forthcoming elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [80945]

Mr Bellingham: At the start of campaigning I made a statement urging all candidates and their supporters to pursue their political goals peacefully and avoid inflaming tensions. We monitor the situation continually, and we participate in regular meetings with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and international partners on elections security. We have worked on scenario planning with the UN, EU and other partners including contingency plans to be activated in the event of sustained election-related violence.

UK officials in Kinshasa have discussed our concerns with the DRC authorities who have assured us that the Congolese police are prepared to handle disturbances. The Department for International Development has also provided £2.6 million for election security through their Security Sector Accountability and Police programme.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on *(a)* DRC's electoral commission allowing all parties in the DRC to scrutinise the electoral role and *(b)* the publication of voter lists prior to the forthcoming election in DRC. [80959]

Mr Bellingham: We are pushing the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) electoral commission to ensure all parties have access to the electoral roll and to publish full voter lists on its website and in registration centres. UK officials at our embassy in Kinshasa have raised this with the DRC authorities including the National Independent Electoral Commission.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is providing to British nationals affected by the recent political unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [80820]

Mr Bellingham: We have not received any requests for consular assistance from British nationals affected by the recent political unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We will provide consular assistance as and when requested.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the recent political unrest in that country. [80845]

Mr Bellingham: At the start of the election campaign in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), I urged all candidates and their supporters to pursue their political goals peacefully. In response to increased tensions following inflammatory remarks made last week by one of the presidential candidates, our ambassador in Kinshasa has called for all candidates to avoid language which could inflame tensions between communities or lead to confrontation with the security forces. He has also raised our concerns with opposition parties and the DRC authorities, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

European Union: Legislative Competence

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are working on the Government's examination of the balance of existing European Union competences. [78474]

Mr Hague: The examination of these issues draws on existing resources.

Israel: Embassies

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Egyptian counterpart on the future protection of the Israeli embassy in Cairo. [80755]

Alistair Burt: I issued a statement on 18 August condemning the attacks in southern Israel earlier that day, calling them appalling and senseless acts of violence and offering sincere condolences to the family and friends of those injured and killed.

We have reiterated these messages to Egyptian officials, and the Egyptians have reassured us that they take their responsibilities very seriously.

In the Prime Minister's statement on 10 September, he welcomed Egypt's agreement that it would uphold Egypt's international agreements including its peace treaty with Israel, stated that we looked to Egypt to honour this agreement, and urged both countries to work together to resolve current tensions and enhance regional stability.

We continue to deliver our key messages on the importance of upholding Egypt-Israeli relations in discussions at official level with both our Egyptian and Israeli interlocutors.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on preventing further endangerment of Israeli officials in Egypt following the recent attacks on Israel's embassy in Cairo. [80757]

Alistair Burt: I issued a statement on 18 August 2011 condemning the attacks in southern Israel earlier that day, calling them appalling and senseless acts of violence and offering sincere condolences to the family and friends of those injured and killed.

We have reiterated these messages to Egyptian officials, and the Egyptians have reassured us that they take their responsibilities very seriously.

In the Prime Minister's statement on 10 September 2011, he welcomed Egypt's agreement that it would uphold Egypt's international agreements including its peace treaty with Israel, stated that we looked to Egypt to honour this agreement, and urged both countries to work together to resolve current tensions and enhance regional stability.

We continue to deliver our key messages on the importance of upholding Egypt-Israeli relations in discussions at official level with both our Egyptian and Israeli interlocutors.

Kosovo: Borders

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the administration of the border between Serbia and Kosovo independently by EULEX. [81300]

Mr Lidington: The Government's policy is that Kosovo, as an independent sovereign state, should administer its border with Serbia. Kosovo Border Police and Customs officials already administer the Kosovo/Serbia border crossing points at Merdare, Mutivodë, Dheu i Bardhë and Muçibabë, with support from the EU's Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in a monitoring and mentoring role.

Due to the political situation in northern Kosovo, the border crossing points at Brnjak and Jarinje are currently administered by EULEX, with support from NATO's peacekeeping force, KFOR, and a small Kosovo Police and Customs presence. While we are clear that, looking ahead, it is the Kosovo Government which should administer these crossing points, current political tensions mean this is not possible. The UK firmly supports EULEX and KFOR engagement to ensure the security situation at the border remains calm. We continue to underline that the best way to resolve the issue of customs controls in northern Kosovo in a sustainable fashion is through the EU-facilitated Dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. We urge both sides to re-engage in the Dialogue as soon as possible, to implement those agreements already reached, and to work towards agreement on other related issues.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the administration of the border crossings between Serbia and Kosovo at Jarinje and Brnjak by Albania; and if he will make a statement. [81301]

Mr Lidington: Albania has no role in the administration of the border crossings between Serbia and Kosovo at Jarinje and Brnjak.

Due to the political situation in northern Kosovo, the border crossing points at Brnjak and Jarinje are currently administered by EULEX (the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo), with support from NATO's peacekeeping force, KFOR and a small Kosovo Customs and Police presence. While we are clear that, looking ahead, it is the Kosovo Government which should administer these crossing points, current political tensions mean this is not possible. The UK firmly supports EULEX and KFOR engagement to ensure the security situation at the border remains calm. We continue to underline that the best way to resolve the issue of customs controls in northern Kosovo in a sustainable fashion is through the EU-facilitated Dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. We urge both sides to re-engage in the Dialogue as soon as possible, to implement those agreements already reached, and to work towards agreement on other related issues.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK is making to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. [81298]

Mr Lidington: The UK continues to provide strong political support and direction to the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). In terms of secondments, the UK currently provides 35 secondees to the Mission, including the Deputy Head of Mission, the Heads of Customs and Organised Crime, judges, police officers and the Chief Spokesperson. While the UK does not contribute separate funding directly to the EULEX budget, the overall UK contribution to the EU CFSP Budget is 15% in 2011, amounting therefore to £19.6 million in the case of CFSP funding for EULEX.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Egyptian counterpart on relations with Israel following terrorist attacks in southern Israel. [80759]

Alistair Burt: I issued a statement on 18 August 2011 condemning the attacks in southern Israel earlier that day, calling them appalling and senseless acts of violence and offering sincere condolences to the family and friends of those injured and killed.

We have reiterated these messages to Egyptian officials, and the Egyptians have reassured us that they take their responsibilities very seriously.

In the Prime Minister's statement on 10 September 2011, he welcomed Egypt's agreement that it would uphold Egypt's international agreements including its peace treaty with Israel, stated that we looked to Egypt to honour this agreement, and urged both countries to work together to resolve current tensions and enhance regional stability.

We continue to deliver our key messages on the importance of upholding Egypt-Israeli relations in discussions at official level with both our Egyptian and Israeli interlocutors.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on relations with Egypt following terrorist attacks in southern Israel. [80760]

Alistair Burt: I issued a statement on 18 August 2011 condemning the attacks in southern Israel earlier that day, calling them appalling and senseless acts of violence and offering sincere condolences to the family and friends of those injured and killed.

We have reiterated these messages to Egyptian officials, and the Egyptians have reassured us that they take their responsibilities very seriously.

In the Prime Minister's statement on 10 September 2011, he welcomed Egypt's agreement that it would uphold Egypt's international agreements including its peace treaty with Israel, stated that we looked to Egypt to honour this agreement, and urged both countries to work together to resolve current tensions and enhance regional stability.

We continue to deliver our key messages on the importance of upholding Egypt-Israeli relations in discussions at official level with both our Egyptian and Israeli interlocutors.

Middle East: Reconciliation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had meetings with groups working to promote reconciliation in Israel and Palestine since May 2010. [80899]

Alistair Burt: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have attended numerous meetings here in the UK, in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories with groups who are working to promote reconciliation and have an interest in resolving the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

North Korea: Crimes against Humanity

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry to investigate crimes against humanity in North Korea. [80923]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK focuses its efforts on working with international partners to encourage North Korea to allow access to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea. The UK also works with international partners to sponsor annual resolutions against North Korea in the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. We are not against the idea of a UN Commission of Inquiry to investigate crimes against humanity in North Korea. However, it is highly unlikely that such an inquiry could be established through the UN Security Council (UNSC) as not all UNSC members would agree.

North Korea: Human Rights

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to raise violations of human rights by the Government of North Korea *(a)* in prison camps and *(b)* elsewhere. [80922]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We use every opportunity to raise violations of human rights in prison camps and elsewhere with the North Korean Government, both through our engagement with the North Korean embassy in London and through our embassy in Pyongyang. In addition to this, we also asked North Korea to provide further information on a range of issues in the Human Rights Council (HRC) including freedom of expression, religious freedoms and the death penalty. Finally, we support UN and EU resolutions on North Korea on an annual basis to raise awareness and promote international action.

North Korea: Prisons

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* size, *(b)* extent of use and *(c)* conditions of prison camps in North Korea. [80921]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I recently met Shin Dong-Hyuk, a North Korean defector who spent the first 23 years of his life in a labour camp. His account and those of other defectors show that torture and beatings are still widely practised in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea's (DPRK) prison camps. Most inmates endure hard labour, poor access to food, and lack of medical care. Some 150,000 to 200,000 political prisoners are reported to be serving terms in DPRK camps. A lack of transparency and independent verification mean that we are unable to assess the situation directly. This is why we regularly urge the North Korean regime to allow access to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea to verity the situation independently.

South Sudan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are stationed in South Sudan. [80847]

Mr Bellingham: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 878W.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to visit South Sudan. [80849]

Mr Bellingham: For security and operational reasons we do not comment on or announce visits.

Stephen Crouch

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates Mr Stephen Crouch has visited his Department since April 2010. [81113]

Mr Lidington: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 157W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* he, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony

Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78654]

Robert Neill: Details of Ministers' and the permanent secretary's meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and are available at:

> www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/

None of these meetings involved the individuals mentioned in the hon. Member's question.

Information in respect of other officials' meetings is not held centrally, but I am not aware of any official meetings with these individuals.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78853]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the right hon. Member for Leeds Central (Hilary Benn) on 24 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 58W.

Special advisers in this Department have had no such meetings with Mr Werritty.

Records are not held centrally of all officials' meetings, but I am not aware of any officials having met with Mr Werritty.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates he has met representatives of *(a)* Bell Pottinger Group and *(b)* its subsidiaries; and what was discussed. [81264]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 60W.

Council Tax

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department used to cost the proposal to freeze council tax for 2012-13; and whether the funding for this proposal will come from his Department's existing budget. [76343]

Robert Neill: The methodology used to cost the proposal to freeze council tax for 2012-13 assumed that every billing and major precepting authority in England would not increase its basic amount of council tax (the band D amount) in 2012-13 compared with 2011-12. For each such authority, a notional council tax requirement was calculated by multiplying the authority's 2011-12 basic amount of council tax by an estimate of its 2012-13 tax base. For police authorities, and fire and rescue authorities, the grant to be made available was estimated to be 3% of the notional council tax requirement; and for other principal authorities, 2.5%. Slightly different percentages were used for the Greater London authority and the City of London to reflect the atypical proportion of their expenditure that is devoted to delivering police and/or fire services. The tax base for billing authorities in 2012-13 was estimated by reference to the three-year average growth in their tax bases from 2008-09 to 2011-12. The tax base for precepting authorities was estimated by aggregating the component billing authority tax base estimates.

Actual grant payments will be determined on the basis of the tax bases eventually reported to the Department by billing authorities in March 2012. The Department's delegated expenditure limit for local government in 2011-12 will be increased to reflect this commitment.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [77488]

Robert Neill: The following table sets out the number of full-time equivalent staff currently employed on consultancy contracts within the Department:

Contract title	*Start date*	*End date*	*Full-time employees*
Enhanced Audits of the European Regional Development Fund Programme	14 September 2011	31 March 2012	15.5 (till 31 December—post this date resource is dependent on project requirement).
Providing technical support and performance management of Firelink on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service and DCLG.	1 October 2008	31 March 2012	Currently 16.4. This will drop to 14.4 in the period January to March 2012.

This data complies with definitions on consultancy laid down by Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 12 October 2011, *Official Report,* columns 448-49W, on the need for Enhanced Audits of the European Regional Development Fund Programme.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80182]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government ran one advertising campaign in 2010-11—Fire Kills—that aimed to encourage people to test their smoke alarm regularly in order to prevent fatalities and injuries from fire in the home. The contract for the creative work associated with this was awarded to agency RKCR/Y&R, located in London.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information

Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78892]

Robert Neill: In the 18-month period from January 2010 to June 2011, the Department for Communities and Local Government refused *(a)* 33 requests on grounds that the information was commercially sensitive and disclosure would have been prejudicial to some party's commercial interests; *(b)* 173 requests where the information requested was not held; *(c)* 35 requests on grounds that locating and extracting the information would exceed the proportionate cost limit—including five requests where fees notices were issued but no payment was received; and *(d)* 24 requests that were deemed vexatious or repeated. Figures for the months since June 2011 have not been included in these totals since these figures have not yet been prepared for submitting to Ministry of Justice for publication in 'Freedom of Information: Statistics of Implementation in Central Government' for the third quarter of 2011.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mobile telephones and BlackBerrys were provided to staff in his Department between June 2007 and May 2010; and what the total cost to the public purse was of *(a)* line rental, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* purchase of such telecommunications equipment. [68324]

Robert Neill: For the period 1 June 2007 to 1 May 2010 the Department spent £563,529 on mobile phones and BlackBerry devices (please note that this is the cost of all mobile devices including 39 3G cards that provide mobile internet access for nomadic laptop users). The total number of mobile phones and BlackBerry devices on issue to staff on 1 May 2010 was 735. Historical data detailing phones issued to staff in 2007 are not available.

The Department does not pay for insurance and the expenditure above could be broken down into equipment cost and line rental only at disproportionate cost.

Since the general election, my Department has taken steps to reduce spending in this area and improve value for money.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75119]

Robert Neill: This information on contract awards is not held centrally and could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

However we are able to provide a breakdown of actual expenditure with small, medium and large business for the period requested which is set out in the following table:

£

	(a) Small	*(b) Medium*	*(c) Large*
May 2010	1,284,068	88,721	8,681,635
June 2010	2,235,652	1,893,898	13,547,790
July 2010	2,260,516	931,607	15,002,259
August 2010	915,982	871,949	10,777,668
September 2010	1,497,524	659,873	13,571,753
October 2010	1,714,476	644,327	10,560,014
November 2010	716,534	758,795	8,834,490
December 2010	1,916,445	7,844	12,290,245
January 2011	1,517,422	922,645	3,252,599
February 2011	622,344	467,317	6,884,927
March 2011	1,347,256	1,551,537	15,112,618
April 2011	483,508	494,601	26,297,407
May 2011	315,820	720,028	5,788,205
June 2011	875,492	283,613	14,925,833
July 2011	230,866	661,771	4,820,054
August 2011	171,865	448,885	6,938,733
September 2011	669,393	302,750	11,055,465
Total	18,775,164	11,710,162	188,341,694

As part of the Government's wider agenda to open up opportunities to small and medium-sized enterprises, DCLG has published its 'pipeline' of business, which will be updated on a quarterly basis, on the departmental website and has also placed guidance on the website to support these enterprises when bidding for business.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75121]

Robert Neill: The following table provides a month by month breakdown of the contract opportunities and values published by DCLG on Contracts Finder (since it launched in January 2011) from February 2011 to October 2011. There is no present capability to highlight contract awards to third sector organisations on Contracts Finder.

	Total number	*Small businesses*	*Percentage proportion awarded to small businesses*	*Total contract value (£)*
February 2011	8	1	13	1,012,462
April 2011	6	0	0	226,765
May 2011	3	0	0	329,079
July 2011	7	0	0	624,399
October 2011	1	1	100	161,575
Total	25	2	8	2,354,280

As part of the Government's wider agenda to open up opportunities to small and medium sized enterprises, DCLG has published its 'pipeline' of business, which will be updated on a quarterly basis, on the departmental website and has also placed guidance on the website to support these enterprises when bidding for business.

Voluntary Work

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76246]

Robert Neill: Charitable giving is a personal matter for individuals, although it is encouraged by Government. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and his ministerial team, like all Government Ministers, have pledged to undertake a "One Day Challenge" with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

A list of the charities and voluntary groups that Ministers are closely involved with can also be found in the Cabinet Office's List of Ministers' Interests at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ministers-interests.pdf

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79588]

Robert Neill: Ministerial clearance is always the final stage before a parliamentary question is answered.

Fire Services

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Gateway Review final report on FireControl. [80240]

Robert Neill: A copy of the Office of Government Commerce—Gateway Review 3B Investment Decision report has been deposited in the Library of the House. As the project was not subject to the Gateway Review 4 Readiness for Service, this is the most recent Gateway Review report.

Housing

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many net additional dwellings were created in England in each year between 1990-91 and 2000-01 inclusive; and how many and what proportion of such dwellings were *(a)* net build completions, *(b)* net conversions, *(c)* net change of use, *(d)* net other gains and *(e)* demolitions in each such year. [81231]

Grant Shapps: Estimates as available are shown in the following table. A full breakdown for the period requested is not possible because the Department for Communities and Local Government's official statistics series on 'net supply of housing' began in 2000-01.

The estimates of net supply are derived from the differences between successive annual stock estimates. Some estimates for net conversions and demolitions are shown where available, based on local authority returns in some years. Estimates are not available for net change of use and net other gains and losses.

	Net additional dwellings completed, England		*New build completions*		*Net conversions*		*Demolitions*	
	(000s) Number	*(000s)* Percentage[1]	*(000s)* Number	*(000s)* Percentage[1]	*(000s)* Number	*(000s)* Percentage[1]e	*(000s)* Number	*(000s)* Percentage[1]
1990-91	n/a[2]	—	160	—	n/a[2]	—	—	—
1991-92	165	100	155	94	12	7	—	—
1992-93	151	100	142	94	8	5	—	—
1993-94	152	100	148	97	8	5	—	—
1994-95	166	100	158	95	10	6	—	—
1995-96	163	100	155	95	9	6	—	—
1996-97	154	100	146	95	9	6	—	—
1997-98	156	100	150	96	3	2	14	-9
1998-99	149	100	140	94	4	3	14	-10
1999-2000	148	100	142	96	4	3	17	-12
2000-01	132	100	133	101	3	2	20	-15

[1] Percentages in the table do not sum to 100 because estimates are not available for net change of use and net other gains and losses.

[2] Prior to 1991, dwelling stock estimates were compiled as at 31 December each year. From 1991 onwards this was changed to 31 March each year. Therefore, no meaningful figure for the change in dwelling stock between 1990 and 1991 can be provided.

Sources:

Net additional dwellings: data for 2000-01 were collected in the Housing Flows Reconciliation return from local authorities. Prior to this, estimates of net housing supply were calculated from the dwelling stock estimates in Live Table 104: "Dwelling stock by tenure, England", available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/

New build completions: "House Building statistics", available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/

Housing: Construction

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses were built in Ashfield constituency between 2005 and 2011; and what proportion of such houses were affordable housing. [80435]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Statistics on house building are not available on a parliamentary constituency basis, but the following table shows the number of new homes built in Ashfield district council area in each year from 2005 to the second quarter of 2011, according to the Department for Communities and Local Government's House Building National Statistics. Ashfield has seen 2,390 new homes over this time period of which 380 units were in the affordable housing sector which equates to 16% of the total.

	Private enterprise	*Housing association*	*Local authority*	*Total*
2005	270	70	0	340
2006	250	20	0	270
2007	440	40	0	490
2008	330	40	0	370
2009	250	120	0	370
2010	300	90	0	390
2011 Q1 and Q2	160	0	0	160
Total	2,010	380	0	2,390
Tenure split (percentage)	84	16	0	100

Source:
New build completions from P2 monthly and quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to DCLG. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 units.

The Department for Communities and Local Government also produces an annual National Statistics series dedicated to the supply of affordable housing. This provides more detail on the types and providers of new affordable housing and includes acquisitions of existing dwellings as well as new build. Because of differences in data sources and timing these statistics can give different estimates of affordable new build from the House Building statistics above. These statistics are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/

Local Government: Pensions

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what economic impact assessment his Department has carried out on the effect of proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme on Workington constituency. [80761]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Gedling (Vernon Coaker) and for Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristram Hunt), on 7 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 23W.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress he has made on implementing the coalition agreement to give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue. [80378]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the proceedings on the consideration of Lords Amendments to the Localism Bill at 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 84-85.

MoveUK

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated gross cost was to the taxpayer of the collapse of the MoveUK housing exchange scheme that replaced the HOMES scheme; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for the failure of the MoveUK scheme. [80381]

Grant Shapps: The previous Government negotiated a confidential financial settlement with the MoveUK contractor in June 2007. In addition to this the Government paid £1.06 million for the development of the software and IT infrastructure for the failed service.

MoveUK was a centrally prescribed service, funded at the tax payers' expense, which the previous Government designed and then failed to deliver. In the first two years of MoveUK, the contractor only achieved half the number of moves of its predecessors and had no clear strategy to improve this. In contrast, I have successfully launched HomeSwap Direct which will allow tenants wishing to move to see details of all possible swaps across the United Kingdom for the first time ever. This was achieved with no cost to tax payers through negotiation with existing mutual exchange service providers and builds on services which are already working effectively.

Organised Crime: Departmental Coordination

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in his Department is a member of the inter-ministerial group dealing with gang culture; and on what dates they have attended meetings of the group. [79049]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government attends the inter-ministerial group on gangs. The group has met on a number of occasions.

Parish Councils: Non-domestic Rates

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the merits of extending to parish councils the exemption on business rates on properties for trusts; and if he will make a statement. [80565]

Robert Neill: There is no exemption from business rates for properties held on trust. A property occupied by charitable trustees only may receive 80% mandatory charity relief provided the property is used for charitable purposes. Local councils pay rates like any other public body and are not eligible for business rates reliefs.

Planning Permission

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the amount of land that is available with planning permission for *(a)* employment and *(b)* industrial development in each local authority area in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10, (iv) 2010-11 and (v) the current financial year. [79323]

Robert Neill: The Department has not estimated the amount of land that is available with planning permission for employment or industrial development. The Department collects summary statistics on planning applications but these do not include information on land areas.

Steve Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether updated local plans have primacy when determining planning applications. [79839]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that planning applications be determined in accordance with the development plan for the area, unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

This applies irrespective of how recently the plan was updated.

Rates and Rating: Ealing

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cash value was of the *(a)* domestic rate and *(b)* non-domestic rate expressed as pence in the pound in the London borough of Ealing in each financial year from 1986-87 until (i) the abolition of domestic rates and (ii) the introduction of the national non-domestic rate. [80239]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally.

Smoke Alarms: Procurement

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many FireAngel ST-620 smoke alarms have been supplied through the FireBuy scheme to each Fire and Rescue Service (FRS); over what period those smoke alarms were procured; what the total cost has been to each FRS; and if he will make a statement. [81320]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be supplied only at a disproportionate cost.

FireBuy went into voluntary liquidation on 13 July 2011 as part of Government's review of arm's length bodies. Its framework contracts, including smoke alarms, were formally novated to Wiltshire county council with the Consortium for Purchasing and Distribution Ltd managing these on Wiltshire's behalf.

Tenants: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants of *(a)* Cross Keys Homes, *(b)* Accent Nene Housing, *(c)* Minster Housing and *(d)* Axiom Housing are in (i) full-time paid work, (ii) retired, (iii) not in paid work and (iv) in receipt of housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [79823]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* This information is not collected by the Department of Communities and Local Government or its executive body, the Homes and Communities Agency.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total amount of funding given by his Department to the voluntary sector was in each of the last 15 years. [80739]

Andrew Stunell: The Department's records are not able to identify payments made to the voluntary sector over this time period. A list of payments made under Section 70 of the Charities Act 2006 to charities and voluntary groups is published in the Department's annual report and resource accounts on a yearly basis.

Annual reports and resource accounts for each year are published on the Department's website. Grant spending over £500 since 2008-09 is also published on the website as part of my Department's broader transparency agenda.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Sharia

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with financial institutions on the provision of Sharia compliant bank accounts, savings accounts and mortgages; and what estimate he has made of the take-up of such accounts and mortgages in the latest period for which figures are available. [81304]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

The Treasury does not collect data on the take-up of Sharia compliant accounts.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80189]

Miss Chloe Smith: Since May 2010 HM Treasury has not awarded any contracts for design services.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80198]

Miss Chloe Smith: During the last year HM Treasury has not incurred any spend for the design of logos, buildings, advertising, stationery or campaigns.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will implement the provisions of the draft EU regulations relating to 2014-20 EU Structural Fund to ensure the inclusion of transition regions in the funding framework. [81112]

Mr Hoban: As set out in its response to the European Commission's Fifth report on Cohesion, the Government believe that regions graduating from convergence support should benefit from enhanced funding via a transitional arrangement.

Green Economy Council

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings of the Green Economy Council he has attended. [80443]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Green Economy Council comprises Ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation for Skills, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and business representatives from a cross-section of industries and sectors. The full membership list is available online at:

http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=418063&SubjectId=2

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax-planning schemes were disclosed to HM Revenue and Customs in the year preceding the announcement of the 50 per cent. rate of income tax on 22 April 2009; and how many have been disclosed since that announcement. [81243]

Mr Gauke: 138 direct tax avoidance schemes were disclosed to HMRC from 22 April 2008 to 21 April 2009 under the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes (DOTAS) regime. From 22 April 2009 to date, 354 direct tax avoidance schemes have been disclosed.

Disclosed direct tax avoidance schemes can include arrangements which are not aimed at income tax avoidance. For example, schemes may aim to avoid capital gains tax, national insurance contributions or corporation tax. The disclosure statistics are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/avoidance/statsoct11.xls

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 4 October 2011 regarding Mr M. Cowen. [81175]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury, my noble Friend Lord Sassoon, replied to the right hon. Gentleman on 9 November 2011.

Public Sector: Part-time Employment

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of public sector workers who work part time; and what proportion of such workers are women. [79793]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has made of the proportion of public sector workers who work part-time; and what proportion of such workers are women. (79793)

The latest period for which figures are available is 2010. ONS estimates that 38 per cent of public sector employees work part-time and that 85 per cent of these employees are women.

Public Sector: Pay

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public sector workers who worked *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time received a salary of less than £15,000 per annum in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many part-time public sector workers earned less than £15,000 per annum but received a full-time equivalent salary of greater than £15,000. [79794]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many public sector workers who worked (a) part-time and (b) full-time received a salary of less than £15,000 per annum in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many part-time public sector workers earned less than £15,000 per annum and received a full-time equivalent salary of greater than £15,000. (79794)

Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentage of employees in that category.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-[illegible]-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

In 2010, the latest period for which figures are available, 70 per cent of part-time and 7 percent of full-time public sector employees earned less than £15,000 per annum. Of the part-time public sector employees who earned less than £15,000 per annum, ONS estimates that 60 per cent received a full-time equivalent salary greater than £15,000. Full-time equivalent salaries were derived from annual pay by pro-rating the part-time employees' paid hours worked to the median estimate of paid hours worked by full-time employees in the public sector.

Tax Allowances: Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have claimed enhanced capital allowances for *(a)* energy-saving plant and machinery, *(b)* water conservation plant and machinery and *(c)* low carbon dioxide emission cars in each year since 2001. [80442]

Miss Chloe Smith: Corporation tax returns identify whether a business has claimed enhanced capital allowances (ECA's) but do not distinguish between ECAs for energy-saving plant and machinery, water conservation plant and machinery and low carbon dioxide emission cars.

The following table gives the total number of companies estimated to have claimed ECAs on tax returns in each year from 2001 to 2009:

	Total number of companies
2001	30
2002	500
2003	1,400
2004	1,700
2005	1,700
2006	1,000
2007	1,200
2008	1,900
2009	3,000

We are unable to provide the same data for unincorporated businesses as income tax returns have not required this information to be provided consistently since 2001.

Teachers: Pensions

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department will produce a valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [79186]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011, but valuations remain on hold. Valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and other factors. Many of these are currently under review as part of the Government's proposed reforms of the public sector pension schemes. A decision on when to undertake the next valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme will be taken in due course.

VAT: Channel Islands

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to maintain low value consignment relief for genuinely indigenous businesses in the Channel Islands; and if he will make a statement. [81357]

Mr Gauke: I see no case for providing businesses based in the Channel Islands with a tax advantage compared to their UK-based competitors, particularly given the ease of access to the UK market provided by HMRC's import VAT pre-payment scheme for Channel Island-based companies.

VAT: Imports

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost of import relief for gifts (non-commercial consignments) sent from outside the EU. [81127]

Mr Gauke: No such estimate of the cost of the relief on gifts sent between private individuals has been made.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the increase in receipts to the Exchequer if his planned changes to low value consignment relief included all non-EU jurisdictions. [81128]

Mr Gauke: It was recently announced that effective from April 2012 the LVCR will be removed entirely from all imports from the Channel Islands. The estimate of the increase in receipts to the Exchequer from this measure will be announced in the autumn statement 2011. However, if the LVCR were to be removed from all non-EU jurisdictions as well, then the further increase from all non-EU jurisdictions would be of the order of £15 million.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of the recent increase in VAT on *(a)* household spending, *(b)* levels of household disposable income and *(c)* consumer confidence. [81126]

Mr Gauke: Sustainable public finances are essential for consumer confidence.

Decisive action taken by the Government in the comprehensive spending review and June Budget, including the increase in VAT, put the public finances and Government spending on a sustainable footing. This has prevented the turmoil seen in other countries' sovereign debt markets spreading to the UK and undermining confidence and the recovery in the private sector.

WALES

Adam Werritty

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* officials in her Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Mr Jon Moulton and (vi) Mr Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [80575]

Mr David Jones: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 8 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 165W, to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

Anti-Semitism

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps her Department has taken to combat anti-Semitism since July 2010; and if she will make a statement. [80582]

Mr David Jones: The Government are committed to confronting anti-Semitism wherever it is found. Policy on tackling anti-Semitism across the UK is co-ordinated by the Department for Communities and Local Government through the cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism. This group meets on a quarterly basis and includes representatives from the Community Security Trust, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council.

The Government's approach to tackling anti-Semitism across the United Kingdom can be found in the "Three Years on Progress Report" which is available in the Library and at this link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/antisemitismresponse

The Equality Act 2010 also demonstrates the Government's commitment to promotion of racial and religious equality across Wales and Great Britain. The Welsh Government also have responsibility for some aspects of community cohesion in Wales and the Government are working closely with the Welsh Government to ensure progress in these areas is consistent across the UK.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in her Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80044]

Mr David Jones: Since May 2010, the Wales Office publishes information on ministerial meetings with external organisations and hospitality received on a quarterly basis.

We do not hold centrally records of engagements as requested by the hon. Gentleman, and the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Communication

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the communications needs of her Department since May 2010. [80579]

Mr David Jones: Assessment of the skills, focus and requirements of the Wales Office is an ongoing process across all aspects of the Department's responsibilities.

In terms of communications, this has led to the greater focus on social media, targeted communications with interested groups, events and improving media monitoring, as well as carrying out existing press office duties.

Creative Industries

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps she is taking to increase access to finance by small and medium-sized enterprises in the creative industries in Wales. [80620]

Mr David Jones: The Government recognise that to support growth in the private sector, including in the creative industries, a flow of credit must be available to viable SMEs.

In February 2011, the Government reached an agreement with five of the UK's biggest banks that secured £190 billion of new business lending and will increase lending to SMEs across the sectors to £76 billion, a 15% increase on the amount lent in 2010. £56.1 billion of this has been lent to SMEs in the first three quarters of 2011.

Departmental Buildings

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects her Department has undertaken since May 2010; and what the cost of each such project has been. [80531]

Mr David Jones: The information requested is as follows:

(a) There have been no building projects undertaken.

(b) I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 7 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1308W. An additional project was started over the summer recess to repair and replace damaged and worn bathroom and kitchen fittings in the Department's London building, to address a number of health and safety issues, and to make good other damage. This project is not completed and so the final cost is not yet available.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in each of the last 12 months. [73658]

Mr David Jones: In the financial year 2010-11 the Wales Office spent £44.64 in December 2010 and £936 in March 2011 on events hosted by the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan).

Ministerial Photographs

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on ministerial *(a)* photoshoots and *(b)* videos since May 2010. [67528]

Mr David Jones: Nothing.

Ministerial Meetings

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in her Department directly and *(b)* her Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67585]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 221W.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people were in possession of a security pass for her main Departmental headquarters, including multi-site headquarters and not including staff or contractors, in each month since May 2010. [77924]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office issues security passes to a small number of people with a business need for regular access to the Department's main building, including hon. Members involved with parliamentary business for the Department, and some members of support staff in Ministers' Commons offices.

In October 2011, there were four such passholders. The information is not held for previous months and can be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the purpose was of such training. [67529]

Mr David Jones: None.

Farmers

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many (1) meetings she has had with *(a)* the CBI and *(b)* the TUC since her appointment; [80478]

(2) times she has met representatives of *(a)* the Countryside Alliance, *(b)* the National Farmers Union, *(c)* the Farmers' Union of Wales and *(d)* other countryside groups since May 2010. [80480]

Mr David Jones: Since May 2010, the Wales Office has published meetings with external organisations on its website on a quarterly basis.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with Ministers in the Department for Transport on High Speed 2. [80612]

Mr David Jones: In line with the Ministerial Code, I am the Wales Office Minister handling all matters relating to High Speed 2.

I have regular discussions with a range of interested parties, including Ministers in the Department for Transport, on issues that affect Wales, including rail infrastructure.

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the economic implications of the HS2 line for Wales. [80538]

Mr David Jones: I have regular discussions with a range of interested parties, including Ministers in the Department for Transport, on issues that affect Wales, including rail infrastructure.

The Government are currently undertaking analysis of the responses received from the recent consultation on a new national high-speed rail network. This is part of a wider programme of modernisation of the rail network, including electrification of the Great Western main line to Cardiff. The consultation considered a range of issues including potential economic implications for Wales.

Industry: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many jobs have been *(a)* created and *(b)* lost in each industrial sector in Wales since May 2010. [67788]

Mr David Jones: Workforce jobs for industries in Wales for the period between quarter 2 2010 to quarter 2 2011 are outlined in the following table.

JOBS04 Workforce Jobs by region and Industry

	Date by yearly quarter				
Industry	*2010 Q2*	*2010 Q3*	*2010 Q4*	*2011 Q1*	*2011 Q2*
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	28,000	34,000	35,000	29,000	28,000
Mining and quarrying	2,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000
Manufacturing	135,000	138,000	143,000	156,000	150,000
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Water supply, sewerage, waste and remediation activities	9,000	7,000	8,000	8,000	9,000
Construction	98,000	101,000	101,000	98,000	102,000

JOBS04 Workforce Jobs by region and Industry

	Date by yearly quarter				
Industry	*2010 Q2*	*2010 Q3*	*2010 Q4*	*2011 Q1*	*2011 Q2*
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	232,000	230,000	219,000	211,000	202,000
Transport and storage	45,000	46,000	54,000	64,000	63,000
Accommodation and food service activities	107,000	114,000	115,000	78,000	78,000
Information and communication	21,000	21,000	22,000	25,000	26,000
Financial and insurance activities	26,000	28,000	30,000	28,000	26,000
Real estate activities	12,000	14,000	15,000	15,000	16,000
Professional scientific and technical activities	61,000	51,000	42,000	47,000	43,000
Administrative and support service activities	85,000	84,000	77,000	81,000	83,000
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	92,000	91,000	87,000	88,000	87,000
Education	139,000	139,000	141,000	140,000	138,000
Human health and social work activities	181,000	186,000	183,000	181,000	223,000
Arts, entertainment and recreation	36,000	33,000	37,000	37,000	39,000
Other service activities	35,000	32,000	40,000	39,000	31,000
Total Industries	1,352,000	1,359,000	1,357,000	1,333,000	1,353,000

Source:
ONS: JOBS04 Workforce Jobs by Region and Industry September 2011

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in her Department have visited since May 2010. [67531]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I frequently visit a variety of charitable and voluntary organisations. Meetings with such organisations are listed on the Wales Office's website.

Youth Parliament

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Education on establishing Youth Parliament members for constituencies in Wales. [79941]

Mr David Jones: We recognise the importance of allowing young people to represent the views of their peers and to contribute to Government policies that affect them.

The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), is due to discuss Welsh representation and other issues with the UK Youth Parliament in the weeks to come.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Day Care

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to assist middle income families with the costs of child care. [80117]

Maria Miller: Low and middle income families who qualify for universal credit will have access to support with child care costs if the lone parent or both members of the couple are working.

Families will be able to recover 70% of monthly child care costs up to £760 for one child or £1,300 for two or more children (therefore total help available is £532 and £910). This is equivalent to the current arrangements in tax credits of 70% of child care costs up to £175 for one child and £300 for two or more children per week.

Crisis Loans

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund crisis loans were paid in each Jobcentre Plus budget area in each region in each of the last 12 months. [80342]

Steve Webb: The information is as follows:

		2010-11				
Region	*Budget area*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
East Midlands	East Midlands North	5,522	4,753	6,610	5,894	5,598
	South East Midlands	7,298	6,210	8,019	6,823	6,933
East of England	Essex	5,231	4,604	5,408	4,960	5,389
	Norwich BDC	10,373	8,848	10,083	10,997	10,363
London	Central and East London	5,207	4,489	5,772	5,032	5,154
	London South	8,157	7,000	9,468	8,572	8,862
	North and North East London	4,730	4.178	5,319	4,956	4,755

		2010-11				
Region	*Budget area*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
	West London	4,052	3,596	4,714	4,269	4,342
North East	Northumbria	4,240	4,183	4,981	4,651	5,409
	South Tyne and Wear Valley	5,342	4,713	5,575	6.345	6.198
	Tees Valley	4,420	4,064	4,455	5,000	4,714
North West	Chorlton BDC	24,331	20,195	26,927	24,068	25,034
	Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	13,695	11,520	15,342	13,726	14,402
Scotland	Inverness BDC	9,151	8,118	11,575	8,330	8,880
	Springburn BDC	19,358	19,016	24,317	19,801	20,676
South East	SE BOBS	6,608	6,115	8,708	8,506	8,431
	SE HIKYS	14,110	14,029	17,862	16,801	17,088
South West	South West Central	12,649	10,334	13,640	14,722	14,341
Wales	Llanelli BDC	3,736	3,283	3,682	4,052	3,731
	South East Wales	8,119	6,730	8,057	8,226	8,192
West Midlands	West Midlands SF	17,426	15,392	22,963	19,541	20,854
Yorkshire and Humberside	Bradford	5,359	4,981	6,410	6,107	5,931
	Sheffield	13,039	11,097	16,237	15,115	14,262
Total		212,153	187,448	246,124	226,494	229,539

		2011-12						
Region	*Budget area*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*
East Midlands	East Midlands North	4,059	4,936	4,883	4,983	5,095	4,943	4,435
	South East Midlands	5,544	6,312	6,364	5,718	5,942	5,917	5,071
East of England	Essex	3,690	4,382	4,250	3,994	3,759	3,827	3,300
	Norwich BDC	7,742	8,872	8,859	8,057	7,876	8,061	7,127
London	Central and East London	3,727	4,508	4,178	4,157	3,930	4,055	3,315
	London South	6,495	7,404	6,921	6,778	6,482	6,985	6,075
	North and North East London	3,519	4,323	4,225	4,102	3,974	3,952	3,539
	West London	3,219	3,599	3.408	3,492	3,352	3,418	2,990
North East	Northumbria	3,648	3,985	3,919	4,321	3,978	3,861	3,752
	South Tyne and Wear Valley	4,157	4,709	4,437	4,645	4,310	4,250	3,817
	Tees Valley	3,229	3,284	3,137	3,258	3,221	3,351	2,898
North West	Chorlton BDC	18,559	24,199	21,008	19,638	19,461	19,062	16,578
	Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	10,345	11,905	11,285	10,948	10,992	11,405	9,807
Scotland	Inverness BDC	6,400	8,076	8,594	7,154	7,179	6,966	6,532
	Springburn BDC	14,779	17,486	17,548	15.913	16,250	15,983	14,024
South East	SE BOBS	5,424	6,310	6,190	5,305	6,258	6,813	6,021
	SE HIKYS	11,950	13,765	12,934	11,578	12,641	13,580	12,157

		2011-12						
Region	*Budget area*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*
South West	South West Central	10,058	12,337	11,254	10,727	11,096	10,483	9,434
Wales	Llanelli BDC	2,780	3,019	2,985	2,940	3,046	3,134	2,664
	South East Wales	6,061	6,548	6,422	6.318	6,497	6,767	5,757
West Midlands	West Midlands SF	14,894	17,222	16,780	16,716	16,520	16,836	15,031
Yorkshire and Humberside	Bradford	4,432	5,232	5,269	4,834	5,081	5,206	4,644
	Sheffield	10,061	11,649	11,389	11,032	11,349	11,630	10,324
Total		164,772	194,062	186,239	176,608	178,289	180,485	159,292

Notes:
1. Figures are based on the number of initial awards.
2. Figures are from November 2010-11 to October 2011-12.
3. BDC—Benefit Delivery Centre.
4. BOBS—Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey.
5. HIKYS—Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund crisis loans were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused to (i) individuals registered as disabled, (ii) individuals over the pension age and (iii) lone parent households in each of the last 12 months. [80347]

Steve Webb: Please see the following tables.

Crisis loan awards by client over last 12 months

		Disabled	*Pensioner*	*Lone Parent*
2010	November	36,800	900	21,800
	December	32,600	700	18,100
2011	January	39,800	1,000	24,300
	February	37,600	1,000	22,300
	March	40,000	1,100	24,000
	April	28,600	600	15,500
	May	32,100	600	17,900
	June	29,600	500	18,000
	July	27,300	500	17,100
	August	27,700	500	18,700
	September	27,700	500	18,800
	October	25,000	400	14,900

Crisis loan refusals by client of last 12 months

		Disabled	*Pensioner*	*Lone Parent*
2010	November	9,100	600	7,500
	December	7,500	300	5,700
2011	January	8,700	500	6,500
	February	8,500	500	6,700
	March	10,200	600	8,000
	April	6,700	400	5,100
	May	7,000	300	4,700
	June	6,500	200	4,500
	July	6,000	200	4,100
	August	5,800	100	3,900
	September	5,500	100	3,700
	October	4,800	100	3,100

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Applications represent applications processed rather than applications received.
3. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application, and for initial awards made, not the number of people who received an initial award. (Some people made more than one application or received more than one initial award.)
4. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data. For example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for a *(a)* second, *(b)* third and *(c)* fourth or more crisis loan were (i) granted and (ii) declined in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [80354]

Steve Webb: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Multiple applications awarded and declined in 2010-11

Number	*Refused*	*Awards*	*Total*
1	258,900	1,021,800	1,280,700
2	129,700	549,700	679,400
3	81,000	336,400	417,400
4+	198,100	717,300	915,400

Notes:
1. Figures are derived from scans data and therefore differ to those published in the Secretary of State's annual report on the social fund figures based on 2010-11 data.
2. Awarded figures are based on an initial award.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
5. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data. For example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund computer system.
6. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application, and for initial awards made, not the number of people who received an initial award. (Some people made more than one application or received more than one initial award.)

Source:
Scan of Social Fund Computer System

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was to repay a Social Fund crisis loan in the latest period for which figures are available. [80355]

Steve Webb: Using data up until March 2011, the average time to repay a Social Fund crisis loan is 10 weeks.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government continue to provide benefits to meet the interest payments on a loan which had been taken out by a person now on benefits when an endowment policy accompanying a mortgage matures but does not provide sufficient funds to pay off the balance of that mortgage. [80549]

Steve Webb: This is a complex area, and each case has to be considered on its own merits.

A claimant receiving an income-related benefit may be entitled to support for mortgage interest towards the interest on a mortgage. Where an endowment mortgage matures and leaves a shortfall on the capital outstanding on the mortgage, the claimant may choose to make new arrangements to repay the existing debt.

Loans which are taken out while the claimant is receiving benefit do not normally qualify for housing costs assistance. But, depending on the particular facts of the individual case, there are provisions in Regulations which allow for continued entitlement to support for mortgage interest payment where:

A new loan is a qualifying 'home purchase loan' under the relevant legislation; and

the new loan is being taken out to repay a previous qualifying loan; and

the new loan does not exceed the old loan.

The amount payable will be limited to the same capital ceiling as was met under the original qualifying loan, and will be determined by applying the standard interest rate to the eligible capital on the new loan. No assistance is available towards capital repayments under any mortgage.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place a copy of his Department's efficiency savings plan in the Library. [79166]

Chris Grayling: The Department's key challenges for the April 2011 to March 2012 period were set out in its 2011-12 Delivery Plan published on 7 April 2011. Copies of the plan were placed in the House of Commons and House of Lords Libraries.

Further detail on how the Department plans to deliver its priorities more efficiently will be included in its Delivery Plan for the period April 2012 to March 2013. Copies of this issue will also be placed in the House Libraries.

Disability Living Allowance

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of changes to the Motability Finance rules removing the four week discretionary extension while disability living allowance claims are awaiting a decision. [81172]

Maria Miller: Eligibility for the Motability scheme is dependant on receipt of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance or war pensioners mobility supplement. When payment of these benefits cease it is Motability's policy to recover their vehicles. Motability advised that in the challenging economic climate it did not believe that the cost of supporting discretionary extensions for those people who are appealing a disability living allowance decision should be borne by other scheme customers.

Further questions about the recent changes to the scheme should be directed to Motability and can be sent to: Declan O'Mahony, Director, Motability, Warwick House, Roydon Road, Harlow, Essex CM19 5PX.

Disability: Driving

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what discussions he has had with Motability on ensuring that a disabled person's personal assistant, who does not live within five miles of the disabled person, and who drives the disabled person's adapted car, can be insured on a Motability car; [80725]

(2) what discussions he has had with Motability to ensure that *(a)* grandparents and *(b)* other family members with a significant caring role, who do not live within five miles of the disabled person, will still be able to be an insured person on a Motability adapted car; [80726]

(3) what arrangements he will make to enable Motability to consider leaving an adapted car with a disabled person who is awaiting the outcome of a disability living allowance appeal; and if he will make a statement; [80727]

(4) what discussions he has had with Motability to ensure that when a child lives in a residential school more than five miles from their home, they will still have access to a Motability adapted car; and how any assessment of the circumstances of such individuals will be made; [80728]

(5) what discussions he has had with Motability to ensure that parents of a disabled child who have separated and live more than five miles apart can both be named as insured drivers on any Motability adapted car. [80729]

Maria Miller: While I regularly meet and correspond with Motability, Motability is an independent charity and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme.

DLA higher rate mobility component is awarded to recognise the significant additional costs a disabled individual incurs and to assist with meeting those costs. It is for the individual in receipt of DLA to decide whether their personal mobility needs are best met by retaining the cash benefit from the Government or to use that money to secure a vehicle through Motability.

Questions relating to the changes in the administration of the scheme recently announced by Motability should be directed to Motability and can be sent to: Declan O'Mahony, Director, Motability, Warwick House, Roydon Road, Harlow, Essex CM19 5PX.

Employment Schemes: Voluntary Organisations

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department will offer support to voluntary sector groups involved in delivering the Work programme who have not yet received any referrals. [81130]

Chris Grayling: Referrals to voluntary sector groups are made by Work programme providers and are a commercial matter for the parties involved. The Department cannot intervene in the business relationships between Work programme providers and their sub-contractors, but it is working with Jobcentre Plus and providers to ensure that claimants who would benefit from the support of voluntary sector organisations are being referred appropriately to the programme.

A total of 699 supply chain places are occupied by voluntary and community sector organisations. This represents a total of 423 different voluntary and community sector organisations in tier 1 and 2.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the written statement of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 50-52WS, on Work programme launch, how many voluntary sector providers were *(a)* prime providers, *(b)* tier 1 providers and *(c)* tier 2 providers. [81162]

Chris Grayling: There are two Work programme prime providers from the voluntary sector; both have been delivering since the launch. Supply chains were not finalised on the launch date, but a stocktake undertaken on 12 August 2011 shows 108 voluntary sector providers in tier 1 and 315 in tier 2. Some organisations may be engaged in both tiers and some organisations have more than one contract with one or more prime providers. Consequently, the 423 tier 1 and tier 2 organisations between them had 699 subcontracts.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many voluntary sector providers were involved in delivering the Work programme on the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many of these were *(a)* prime providers, *(b)* tier 1 providers and *(c)* tier 2 providers; [81239]

(2) what the date was of his Department's most recent stocktake of providers to the Work programme. [81240]

Chris Grayling: The Department's most recent stocktake of providers involved in the Work programme took place on 12 August 2011.

The stocktake identified that the number of voluntary and community based organisations involved in delivering the Work programme was:

(a) two prime providers;

(b) 108 tier 1 providers; and

(c) 315 tier 2 providers.

Funeral Payments

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many funeral payments were paid in each Jobcentre Plus budget area in each region in each of the last 12 months. [80350]

Steve Webb: The information is shown in the following tables.

		2010-11					2011-12	
Region	*Budget area*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*
East Midlands	East Midlands North	170	70	100	140	120	90	110
	South East Midlands	140	90	110	150	140	100	110
East of England	Essex	80	60	90	80	90	60	80
	Norwich BDC	220	130	140	200	170	120	130
London	Central and East London	100	40	90	80	70	50	70
	London South	180	80	120	140	140	60	110
	North and North East London	90	50	60	70	110	40	70
	West London	70	50	50	50	60	60	40
North East	Northumbria	70	50	60	70	80	60	90
	South Tyne and Wear Valley	70	70	110	80	110	50	140
	Tees Valley	60	40	50	60	80	50	70
North West	Chorlton BDC	320	230	360	370	340	310	300
	Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	330	120	250	230	310	190	210
Scotland	Inverness BDC	140	110	130	150	150	110	120
	Springburn BDC	400	240	350	370	360	250	280

		2010-11					2011-12	
Region	*Budget area*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*
South East	SE BOBS	100	40	80	100	80	50	70
	SE HIKYS	210	100	190	290	180	170	160
South West	South West Central	130	110	130	250	170	150	200
Wales	Llanelli BDC	80	50	100	90	120	60	90
	South East Wales	180	110	170	180	240	100	170
West Midlands	West Midlands SF	420	350	410	370	420	250	320
Yorkshire and Humberside	Bradford	110	60	90	120	80	50	100
	Sheffield	310	160	240	290	250	180	220
Total		3,990	2,410	3,480	3,910	3,860	2,600	3,250

		2011-12					
Region	*Budget area*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*Total*
East Midlands	East Midlands North	150	90	80	110	80	4,100
	South East Midlands	170	80	100	100	110	1,550
East of England	Essex	70	80	70	80	90	1,490
	Norwich BDC	200	120	130	150	120	2,470
London	Central and East London	80	70	80	70	70	1,370
	London South	170	130	130	150	110	2,310
	North and North East London	70	70	60	60	60	1,240
	West London	70	60	50	60	60	1,090
North East	Northumbria	80	80	70	80	50	1,320
	South Tyne and Wear Valley	110	100	70	100	30	1,590
	Tees Valley	60	60	50	60	40	1,050
North West	Chorlton BDC	360	260	280	270	340	5,780
	Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	250	140	170	180	190	3,800
Scotland	Inverness BDC	130	110	110	120	110	2,310
	Springburn BDC	290	290	310	360	240	5,650
South East	SE BOBS	60	110	60	80	80	1,400
	SE HIKYS	150	230	190	160	160	3,390
South West	South West Central	210	240	170	180	150	3,100
Wales	Llanelli BDC	80	80	60	80	40	1,370
	South East Wales	170	130	130	140	100	2,620
West Midlands	West Midlands SF	340	360	280	350	290	6,240
Yorkshire and Humberside	Bradford	120	60	80	100	60	1,270
	Sheffield	330	200	180	240	180	3,340

		2011-12					
Region	*Budget area*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*Total*
Total		3,730	3.160	2,900	3,260	2,750	59,830

Notes:
1. Figures are based on the number of initial awards.
2. Figures are from November 2010-11 to October 2011-12
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
5. BDC = Benefit Delivery Centre.
6. BOBS = Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey.
7. HIKYS = Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many defaults there were on the repayment of funeral payments from the deceased's estate in each of the last 12 months. [80351]

Steve Webb: Funeral payments are not recoverable except from the estate of the deceased. A recovery schedule is not required for repayment and therefore there is nothing to default on. Funeral payments are automatically written off at the time they are made, unless there appears to be an estate to recover from, in which case follow-up action is taken to attempt to recover the payment made. The Department has first call on the deceased's estate.

In 2010-11, £42 million was written off as there was no estate to recover from and £0.3 million was recovered during the year.

Housing Benefit

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants in receipt of housing benefit who are living in a property with an estimated market value of *(a)* £250,000 to £499,999, *(b)* £500,000 to £749,999, *(c)* £750,000 to £999,999, *(d)* £1 million to £1,499,999 and *(e)* in excess of £1.5 million. [78329]

Steve Webb: Data on market values of properties occupied by housing benefit claimants are not available. As the requested information is not necessary for calculating housing benefit award, it is not collected by local authorities.

Housing Benefit: Rural Areas

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of his proposed changes to housing benefit on people aged between 25 and 35 years living in sparsely populated rural areas. [81292]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. The equality impact assessment of the increase to the shared accommodation rate age threshold, available on the DWP website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

contains estimates of the impacts of this measure at both Government office region and local authority area level.

The Department has commissioned an independent review and monitoring of the local housing allowance, which will include an assessment of the impacts of extending the shared accommodation rate. It will provide information on the effects of the measures in a variety of different housing markets, including rural areas.

Pension Credit

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of pension credit *(a)* are below the state pension retirement age and *(b)* wish to work. [81158]

Steve Webb: As at February 2011 there were 232,610 men aged under 65 in receipt of pension credit. We do not hold any information on how many of this group are actively seeking employment.

Notes:

1. The pension credit qualifying age is the same as women's state pension age. As such, it is not possible for a female to claim pension credit under state pension age.

2. Figures provided are for pension credit recipients. Pension credit recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner.

3. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

4. Men who are under their state pension age but have reached the pension credit qualifying age can claim pension credit or income-based jobseekers allowance, which requires recipients to actively seek employment.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data as at November 2009

Pensions

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken was for the Pensions Regulator to begin reviewing a case in the latest period for which figures are available. [80747]

Steve Webb: The Pensions Regulator's procedure is for all cases to be allocated to a case worker and for the case review to be opened within twenty-four hours of being reported to or identified by the Pensions Regulator. No specific statistics are compiled in relation to performance of this procedure.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to increase efficiency at the Pensions Regulator. [80748]

Steve Webb: The Pensions Regulator was set up in April 2005 with a new proactive and risk-based regulatory approach, placing greater emphasis on identifying and tackling real risks to members' benefits. The delivery of the daily business is managed by the chief executive, reporting to the Board of the Pensions Regulator. There is also ongoing assessment of the Regulator's performance at both ministerial and official level. Following a request from Ministers in line with DWP's other non-departmental public bodies, the Pensions Regulator has submitted proposals to reduce its operating costs over the spending review period, which will be achieved by a number of initiatives to increase efficiencies in it's business whilst maintaining or improving standards of service delivery. The Pensions Regulator publishes a business plan annually and submits an annual report on all its activities to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the right hon. Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), which is then laid before Parliament.

Pensions: Females

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will set out the number of women whose pension arrangements will now be affected by legislative changes, broken down by constituency. [79180]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the level of benefit underpayments; and what consideration he has given to setting a target for such activity. [78760]

Chris Grayling: The Department is committed to achieving reductions in the levels of both benefit under and overpayments as a result of fraud and error, and the publication of our joint strategy with HMRC last October, "Tackling fraud and error in the benefit and tax credits system" is a clear demonstration of this.

The Department's fraud and error reduction activity is currently focused on implementing the strategy. The initiatives in place and being introduced as part of the strategy are focused on improving levels of overall correctness both at the point of payment and during the lifetime of a claim, and will therefore address both under and overpayments.

The Department already routinely data-matches DWP benefits to identify irregularities and check the correct rate of benefit is being paid and targets both under and overpayments. Under the strategy, and as part of a new integrated risk and intelligence unit, this will be extended to data matching with credit reference agencies to ensure that a benefit is correct before it is put into payment. In addition, the Department is undertaking a large scale programme of correction and review activity (case cleanse), which will identify under and overpayments where customers have failed to report their correct circumstances.

Other activities to help reduce the level of under and overpayments include the introduction of an independent national checking tier focusing on working age benefits, to check a sample of benefit claims for error covering the process from initial contact to first payment. Critically, it will help the Department confirm where in the process the error began and allow us to address this. Also, a mandatory new claims check for working age benefits was introduced in March 2011, directing staff to confirm all other DWP benefits being received before a decision is reached on the total amount payable. This check also identifies additional benefit entitlements which may otherwise not be paid.

The Department has considered setting a target for reducing the level of underpayments. However, we have concluded that the introduction of a formal and external target would not add any significant extra value to our current activity to tackle underpayments for the reasons outlined in the Permanent Secretary's letter to you on 12 October.

The introduction of universal credit will increase annual payments by £4 billion, two thirds of which will be due to better take-up from recipients.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library all Jobcentre Plus guidance relating to sanctioning benefits, issued in 2011. [79156]

Chris Grayling: I have arranged for the relevant chapters from the guides relating to the sanctioning of jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance and income support to be placed in the Library. These are the only benefits in which a claimant can receive a sanction for failing to comply with the respective benefit obligations.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of a UK state pension are resident in *(a)* an EU member state, *(b)* the US, *(c)* Canada, *(d)* Australia, *(e)* New Zealand, *(f)* South Africa and *(g)* other countries. [80928]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

State pension recipients as at February 2011

Country of residence	*Total*
All EU member states	11,814,090
US	138,800
Canada	157,600
Australia	252,100
New Zealand	52,190
South Africa	38,460
All other countries	110,560

Notes:
1. From April 2010, the age at which women reach state pension age started to gradually increase from 60. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.
2. Caseload figures are-rounded to the nearest 10; totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Cases where the country code is unknown are excluded from this analysis. Therefore, the sum of the above figures is less than the total number of state pension recipients.
4 This information is published on our website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Universal Credit

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how a contrived tenancy will be *(a)* identified and *(b)* dealt with under his proposals for a universal credit. [73859]

Steve Webb: The housing benefit regulations include provision to not pay benefit for contrived tenancies. Similar rules will be in place to prevent housing support from being payable for contrived tenancies under universal credit. The Department is working to fully understand how this will work in practice.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the budget allocated to implementation of universal credit he proposes will be spent in the current financial year; and for what purposes. [81129]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently forecasting to spend £105 million of the budget allocated to the implementation of universal credit in the financial year 2011-12. This will be spent on IT development, programme management and the design of the universal credit system and processes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* she, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of her Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78656]

Richard Benyon: A full list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published on the DEFRA website. Records of meetings by officials are not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* she, *(b)* officials of her Department and *(c)* special advisers in her Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on her Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78865]

Richard Benyon: No Ministers, special advisers or the Permanent Secretary have had any meetings with Mr Adam Werritty. Disproportionate costs would be incurred in checking whether any officials had ever met him but it is considered unlikely.

Agricultural Wages Board

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if her Department will undertake periodic reviews on the effects on wages of agricultural workers of the closure of the Agricultural Wages Board. [80903]

Mr Paice: There are no plans for specific reviews on the effect on wages of agricultural workers if the Agricultural Wages Board is abolished. Information on wages in all sectors of the economy (including agriculture) is monitored through the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, which is run by the Office for National Statistics.

Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have submitted an expression of interest in her Department's pilot on biodiversity offsetting. [80137]

Richard Benyon: We received a total of 10 expressions of interest for DEFRA'S pilot on biodiversity offsetting. Of these, nine were led by local authorities. Most proposals were received from multiple planning authorities (county councils, district councils, borough councils and national parks). We also received nine proposals for complementary projects to be run by other organisations.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to assess the effectiveness of biodiversity offsetting. [80138]

Richard Benyon: The biodiversity offsets pilots are being set up specifically in order to enable us to assess the effectiveness of the approach. The pilots will run for two years, after which they will be independently evaluated.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish indicators on the delivery of Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystems Services. [80140]

Richard Benyon: We will publish the new biodiversity indicator set in May 2012, following the review of the current set of indicators.

Birds of Prey

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect birds of prey. [79827]

Richard Benyon: All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which implements the EC wild birds directive in Great Britain. This provides a powerful framework for the conservation of wild birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. Across the UK there are also a number of special protection areas that have been classified for birds of prey.

The persecution of birds of prey is a wildlife crime priority for the UK. This priority has been addressed through action plans which include prevention, intelligence and enforcement measures aimed at delivering a targeted, focused tactical response.

The National Wildlife Crime Unit (part funded by the Government) gathers records and monitors information and intelligence about illegal activities affecting birds of prey. It uses this information to support the wildlife crime priority action plans, as well as to assist individual enforcers in their investigations. It also works closely with all the UK Administrations, as species conservation is a devolved matter.

Trade in endangered species of wild birds of prey is controlled by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, an international agreement between governments whose aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to announce the pilot areas for the scientific culling of badgers; and what assessment she has made of the suitability of Devon as such an area. [77194]

Mr Paice: If we decide to go ahead with the policy, we would anticipate receiving licence applications from areas of the country where TB in cattle is worst. As described in the consultation document, applications would need to demonstrate how they meet the licence criteria, and we proposed that they would be prioritised based on the likely reduction of TB in cattle in the application area. Following the recent stakeholder consultation, we are considering comments received alongside the responses to the 2010 public consultation before taking a decision on whether to proceed with a policy of badger control. We expect this decision to be made later in the year.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has held with the Prime Minister on the proposed badger cull using shooting. [77519]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), discusses a range of issues with the Prime Minister on a regular basis.

Cats: Electric Shock Equipment

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on electronic training aids for cats. [70107]

Mr Paice: We are currently evaluating recent research on the use of electronic training collars for dogs before making any decisions on whether to introduce any legislative proposals relating to such devices. The research is expected to be published before the end of the year.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants her Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79073]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not hold a central record which would identify grants made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years and cannot therefore provide an accurate figure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Circuses

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which circuses were inspected by inspectors and vets appointed by her Department in the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* dates of such inspections and *(b)* location of the circuses at the time of the inspection were; [74699]

(2) whether *(a)* inspectors or *(b)* veterinary surgeons appointed by her Department inspected animal circuses between 1991 and 2011; and if she will place in the Library a copy of any such inspection reports; [74717]

(3) which external advisers are providing advice to her Department on its new licensing regime for wild animals in circuses; and how many officials of her Department are working on the licensing regime; [75212]

(4) if she will place in the Library a copy of each piece of advice provided to her Department on her new licensing regime for wild animals in circuses. [75213]

Mr Paice: There is currently no animal welfare legislation that specifically covers travelling circuses that would require them to be inspected on a formal, routine basis by a Government inspector. While we are aware that there have been inspections (three at the request of DEFRA for a feasibility study in 2008, for which the reports were carried out in confidence), these usually have been done locally on an informal, infrequent basis with no requirement for the inspection, or the inspection report, to be notified centrally to DEFRA or the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency or any of its predecessor bodies.

The proposed new circus animal licensing scheme will put inspections on a formal, statutory, footing. The new scheme will certainly ensure we have a record of all the routine licensing inspections carried out on circuses. We will need to consider what information about, and from, the inspections should be made available publicly to ensure the scheme is as transparent as possible. We will consult on proposals early next year.

No external advisers have been appointed to provide advice on our proposed licensing regime for wild animals in circuses. During the development of the regulations we will, of course, be seeking relevant stakeholder input into the proposed licensing standards. Our proposals will also be subject to a public consultation early in the new year that will provide anyone with an interest in this issue an opportunity to comment on the licensing scheme. The team taking forward the new licensing scheme consists of three full time officials supported by a veterinary adviser and a legal adviser.

We have not received any specific written advice on our proposed licensing regime. However, all responses to the proposed public consultation on the new licensing scheme will be made publicly available through the DEFRA Information Resource Centre after the consultation has closed. The information contained in the responses may also be published in a summary of the responses.

Cocklers

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she is taking in respect of the safety of cocklers following recent rescues in the Ribble estuary; [77731]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the rescue of cocklers in the Ribble estuary. [77732]

Richard Benyon: The North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) is responsible for the management of the cockle fishery on the Ribble estuary. This fishery is managed through byelaws. Byelaw No. 5 requires cocklers to obtain a permit to fish from the IFCA. In order to obtain a permit, applicants must complete appropriate safety training as part of the application process.

Impacts arising from the Ribble estuary fishery are being managed by a multi-agency committee led by Fylde council (north side) and Sefton council (south side). Comprehensive multi-agency plans have been prepared and endorsed by the NWIFCA, local authorities, the police, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA), the Marine and Coastguard Agency, Natural England, the Mersey Port Health Authority and other bodies.

In the interest of public safety, NWIFCA have taken the decision to close the fishery on the Ribble by virtue of an emergency byelaw. This byelaw, which prevents anybody from removing cockles without written authorisation from the IFCA, came into effect at 00:01 hours on Monday 7 November 2011 and will be reviewed at the IFCAs next meeting on 6 December 2011. I am encouraged by the cross agency working that has been taking place in the Ribble area over the past few weeks. The IFCA will need to work with other local authorities to enforce this closure.

While I support the IFCAs decision to close the fishery, it is a matter of regret that this action has had to be taken as legitimate fishermen are being denied their livelihood by the reckless actions of some and the illegal actions of a few. NWIFCA are currently considering what additional management measures are required to enable the fishery to reopen to these legitimate fishers as soon as possible, and in doing so will need to be satisfied that the safety of fishermen is not compromised.

Regular discussions are held with the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), on issues of mutual interest, including safety at sea, which is discussed when the need arises.

Dangerous Dogs

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to tackle dangerous dogs. [78445]

Mr Paice: We have made it a priority to look at the complex issue of dangerous dogs, which is an increasingly important issue for the public. We are now considering a package of measures to address the issue by toughening legislation and promoting preventative action.

We shall shortly announce measures to tackle dangerous dogs and make our streets safer.

Travel Costs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which travel management companies her Department uses for the purchase of airline tickets; [72688]

(2) what *(a)* contractual obligations and *(b)* other processes her Department uses in respect of travel management companies to ensure the best value is achieved when purchasing airline tickets. [72702]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA uses Redfern Travel Ltd under the Government Procurement Services Framework when purchasing airline tickets. The Department has the following contractual obligations for purchasing airline tickets:

Redfern Travel provides a booking service for rail, air and ferry services, operating within a service level agreement and having access to global airline bookings.

Hours of operation are 8 am to 6 pm with the addition of an emergency out of hours service; telephone and email services are used.

DEFRA ensures best value when purchasing airline tickets by using only the travel management supplier and:

Requiring prior approval to spend any funds for air travel with no first class travel allowed.

Provision of an in-house ticketing machine in London locations to save on the cost of delivering tickets.

Use of management information provided by the travel management company to track spend and CO_2.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff are employed on consultancy contracts in her Department; and if she will make a statement. [77491]

Richard Benyon: On 30 September 2011, the core Department used one full-time equivalent consultant and four part-time consultants totalling 1.94 FTE between them.

Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78123]

Richard Benyon: No civil servants are employed directly by DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies.

It is possible that civil servants employed by DEFRA or other Government Departments may be seconded to non-departmental public bodies, but information about these secondments is not recorded centrally and complete figures could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Parliamentary Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in her Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79576]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA special advisers have the opportunity to comment and advise their Ministers on answers to parliamentary questions before these are given final clearance by the relevant Minister or Ministers.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for her Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate she has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for her Department in 2011-12. [73197]

Richard Benyon: The costs for the core Department are shown in the following table. The 2011-12 figures are estimates taken at the mid-year review. Consultants are not used in this function but there are interim staff whose costs are shown. It is expected that further reductions in the use of interims will reduce the estimated figure shown.

	Cost (£)
(a) 2008-09 civil servants	1,298,693
*(b)*2009-10 civil servants	1,260,846
(c) 2010-11 civil servants	1,286,229
(i) 2011-12 civil servants	1,387,292
(ii) 2011-12 consultants	0
2011-12 interims	2,493,948

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department has awarded directly to third sector organisations in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if she will make a statement. [75134]

Richard Benyon: Core DEFRA does not categorise spend by the third sector specifically and is therefore unable to provide this information.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion were awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if she will make a statement. [75137]

Richard Benyon: In line with Government policy, DEFRA began publishing contract information on the Contracts Finder website from January 2011.

The following table shows data for the core department for contracts awarded and registered on Contracts Finder.

As at each month 2011	*Total*	*Small/medium businesses*
January	14	10
February	11	9
March	25	18
April	11	9
May	10	7
June	6	3
July	7	5
August	11	8
September	6	2
October	3	2

The Contracts Finder website does not record information on which bodies are third sector organisations or small businesses. The figures for small/medium above are taken from core Department central records, but figures for the third sector could be given only at disproportionate cost.

Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's research and development budget was in each of the last five years; and what that budget will be for each year of the spending review period. [78840]

Richard Benyon: Core DEFRA's research and development spend for the last five years is in the following table.

	Spend (£ million)
2006-07	137
2007-08	130
2008-09	128
2009-10	120
2010-11	104

DEFRA has not yet determined the details of its research spend for each year of the spending review period.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by her Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79575]

Richard Benyon: No named day parliamentary questions have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010; 13 ordinary written questions have remained unanswered for that period.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Environment Protection: Local Authorities

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what data on conservation and biodiversity local authorities are required to submit to her Department under the single data list. [80132]

Richard Benyon: The single data list requires local authorities to submit data on the percentage and number of local sites where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented in the last five years (along with the total number of sites in the local authority area). This data was formerly required by National Indicator 197 and continues as part of the single data list (data collection reference 160-00).

Fisheries: Ribble Estuary

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to address issues arising from cockle-picking on the Ribble estuary. [77302]

Richard Benyon: The North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) is responsible for the management of the cockle fishery on the Ribble estuary. This fishery is managed through byelaws. Byelaw No. 5 requires cocklers to obtain a permit to fish from the IFCA. In order to obtain a permit, applicants must complete appropriate safety training as part of the application process.

Impacts arising from the fishery are managed by a multi-agency committee led by Fylde council (north side) and Sefton council (south side). Comprehensive multi-agency plans have been prepared and endorsed by the NWIFCA, local authorities, the police, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA), the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Natural England, the Mersey Port Health Authority and other bodies.

In the interest of public safety, NWIFCA has taken the decision to close the fishery on the Ribble by virtue of an emergency byelaw. This byelaw, which prevents anybody from removing cockles without written authorisation from the IFCA, came into effect at 00:01 hours on Monday 7 November 2011 and will be reviewed at the IFCAs next meeting on 6 December 2011. I am encouraged by the cross agency working that has been taking place in the Ribble area over the past few weeks. The IFCA will need to work with other local authorities to enforce this closure.

While I support the IFCAs decision to close the fishery, it is a matter of regret that this action has had to be taken as legitimate fishermen are being denied their livelihood by the reckless actions of some and the illegal actions of a few. NWIFCA is currently considering what additional management measures are required to enable the fishery to reopen to these legitimate fishers as soon as possible, and in doing so will need to be satisfied that the safety of fishermen is not compromised.

Officers from the GLA, which is a DEFRA non-departmental body, are investigating recent reports concerning cocklers in the Ribble estuary area. If the GLA finds evidence that gangmasters were involved, it will take appropriate action under its statutory powers.

Horses

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what penalties may be invoked against horse owners who do not hold equestrian passports; and how many prosecutions for that offence have been brought by trading standards officers. [76216]

Mr Paice: The Horse Passports Regulations 2009 (which apply in England) make it an offence for a horse owner not to apply for a passport within six months of the animal's birth or by 31 December of the year of its birth, whichever is later. Penalties for offences under the Horse Passports Regulations 2009 are, on summary conviction, a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum; or on conviction on indictment, a fine.

Records held on the Animal Health and Welfare Management and Enforcement system (AMES) show that in 2010, seven prosecutions were initiated, of which six led to convictions. Between 1 January 2011 and 20 October 2011, three prosecutions were initiated. The AMES database records enforcement activity related to a registered holding that has been issued a Country Parish Holding (CPH) number. Data relating to other premises, roadside checks of transporters, or other locations, or by bodies other than those local authorities that upload data to AMES, are not held.

Nature Conservation

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many species are critically endangered in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* British overseas territories. [80331]

Richard Benyon: Of those species that have been studied there are 29 species critically endangered in the UK and 101 species critically endangered in the British overseas territories.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hectares of land are designated a priority habitat in England. [80361]

Richard Benyon: "Priority habitat" is not a formal designation, but certain habitats are listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as being of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity. The total area of these habitats in England above mean low water is estimated to be 1.75 million hectares. This value excludes linear habitats such as rivers and hedgerows, for which area estimates are not available.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Spanish, *(b)* Italian, *(c)* Polish and *(d)* French counterparts on likely levels of non-compliance with the welfare of laying hens directive from 1 January 2012; what data her Department holds on such levels; and if she will publish such data; [79133]

(2) what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Dutch and *(b)* Belgian counterparts on likely levels of non-compliance with the welfare of laying hens directive; what information her Department holds on likely levels of non-compliance; and if she will publish any such information. [79521]

Mr Paice: All member states were asked by the Commission to provide the level of progress at 1 April, a forecast for December 2011 and, more recently, an update on the level of conversion as at 27 September 2011. The UK has submitted these returns to the Commission as requested. Likely levels of non-compliance were discussed at a recent meeting in Brussels. The Commission to date has not published these data.

However, at a European Parliament debate in October, the Commission acknowledged for the first time that Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Poland, Portugal and Romania did not expect to be fully compliant. Another five member states, including Spain, had also failed to provide any data to the Commission.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), wrote jointly with nine other concerned member states to the European Commission in September. They urged the Commission to act quickly to protect those producers across the EU who will have complied with the ban from the risk of competitive distortion in favour of those who will have maintained illegal production after 1 January 2012.

Discussions at an EU level are ongoing and the UK is fully engaged with the Commission and other member states in finding a practical enforcement solution.

Recycling: Glass

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the *(a)* cost and *(b)* efficiency of recycling glass compared to plastic bottles. [79423]

Richard Benyon: Data on the cost and efficiency of recycling glass compared to plastic bottles are not held centrally.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of Sites of Special Scientific Interest her Department considers to be in favourable condition; [80129]

(2) how frequently the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest are assessed; [80130]

(3) when the condition of *(a)* priority habitats and *(b)* Sites of Special Scientific Interest were last assessed in England. [80131]

Richard Benyon: As at 1 November 2011, 37.1% of England's 1.04 million hectares of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) had been assessed by Natural England as being in favourable condition.

The condition of England's SSSIs is assessed for each site individually, with site assessments undertaken on a rolling cycle. The latest full cycle of assessments was completed in December 2010. The national SSSI condition statistic is updated monthly to reflect the most recent site assessments as they are completed.

SSSIs in England are monitored by Natural England on a risk-based cycle, with higher-risk sites monitored most frequently. The average visit interval across all SSSIs is seven years.

There is no current comprehensive assessment of the condition of priority habitats in England. Sample-based assessments have been completed for five lowland grassland priority habitats (2002-03); lowland heathlands (2008-09); and three upland priority habitats (2008-09). Plans are in development to secure a more comprehensive assessment of habitats across England that will enable improved reporting on priority habitat condition in the future.

UN Convention: Watercourses

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to ratify the 1997 UN convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses; and what timetable she has set for any such ratification. [79366]

Richard Benyon: The United Kingdom has not signed the 1997 United Nations convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses. Since the time for signing has passed, the process now would be for accession rather than ratification.

The UK has no immediate plans to accede to the convention but DEFRA, the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are reviewing the potential benefits of possible accession.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 228-9W, on Adam Werritty, what the nature was of the social events at which the Minister for International Security Strategy met Mr Werritty. [80697]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I met Mr Werritty at a sporting event and a wedding.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel returning from Afghanistan are receiving help with mental health issues due to the trauma of service. [80325]

Mr Robathan: Defence Analysis Statistics and Advice (DASA) records attendance by service personnel at the Ministry of Defence's Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs). During the most recent full financial year (2010-11), a total of 1,670 UK service personnel who had deployed to Afghanistan were recorded as having been assessed for a new episode of care at a DCMH. Conditions treated include alcohol abuse, depression, adjustment disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Because DASA does not hold information on discharge from care, we are unable to provide information on those who are currently receiving treatment. Also, in most cases where a mental disorder is diagnosed there may be a number of causal factors involved, of which trauma caused by operational deployment is just one.

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse has been of the provision of mental health care to armed forces personnel returning from Afghanistan. [80326]

Mr Robathan: Mental health care is provided for all armed forces personnel, and it is not possible to disaggregate specific costs against personnel returning from Afghanistan. In addition, because of the many ways in which mental health care is provided and funded, it is not possible to provide a figure that covers all the numerous care streams, such as that provided by GPs in primary care facilities, or by non-medical personnel such as welfare staff.

However, a substantial proportion of this care is provided through the Ministry of Defence's Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs), which provide out-patient care. During the financial year 2010-11, overall manpower and running costs for the 15 DCMHs in the UK were £6.576 million. In-patient care in the UK is provided in specialist psychiatric units under contract with the NHS, and during the same period costs of £1.321 million were billed against this contract.

Aircraft Carriers

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has *(a)* amended or *(b)* cancelled any contracts with British firms as a result of the decision to convert one of the Queen Elizabeth class carriers to cats and traps; [80365]

(2) what *(a)* legal, *(b)* administrative and *(c)* other costs including compensation have arisen from the amendment or cancellation of contracts as a result of the decision to convert the Queen Elizabeth class carrier to cats and traps. [80369]

Peter Luff: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) concluded that we would fit a catapult and arrestor gear operational carrier to enable it to fly the more capable Carrier Variant (CV) of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). The CV JSF carries a greater payload, has a longer range and costs less than the Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) variant. The change made will also give us greater interoperability with our allies. No contracts have been formally cancelled or amended by the Ministry of Defence as a result of the SDSR decision to convert one of the Queen Elizabeth (QE) class carriers. We do expect that there will be a need to amend some contracts once we have concluded the work necessary to inform the decision in late 2012 as to which carrier will be converted.

In the meantime we have, in agreement with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, stopped some elements of build work related to the STOVL design, such as the ramp. It is expected that the removal of the ramp will be captured in a formal amendment in early 2012, and further changes arising from decisions on conversion will be captured in 2013.

We have not incurred any legal, administrative or other costs, including compensation, as we have not amended or cancelled any QE class contracts since the SDSR concluded.

Armed Forces: Bullying

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of procedures to ensure timely, independent and impartial redress for victims of bullying in the armed services. [79427]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently undertaking a fundamental review of the service complaints process following direction given by the Service Personnel Board and as recommended in the Service Complaints Commissioner's (SCC) annual report for 2010 (recommendation 10.9). A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House.

The purpose of the review is to scrutinise all elements of the current system, including bullying and harassment complaints, and to assess the scope for reform, making the system as fair, effective and efficient as possible. The MOD's formal response to the SCC's annual report for 2010 provides more detail on the review and can be accessed through the parliamentary website (Deposited paper DEP2011-1178) at the following address:

http://deposits.parliament.uk/

Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Education

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost is of service education allowances in 2011-12; and what estimate he has made of the future cost of the allowances. [79116]

Mr Robathan: The current estimated gross cost of Continuity of Education Allowances (CEA) for financial year 2011-12 is £175 million. It is expected to reduce to £170 million in 2012-13 taking into account savings measures agreed during the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), the impacts of which are yet to be realised. Thereafter the estimated cost of CEA, if current levels of uptake continue, may begin to rise again as inflationary factors are taken into account.

On future costs, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 36-38WS, by the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), which stated that the Government have a target to reduce spending on CEA by at least half by 2020.

Armed Forces: Members

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of the value to *(a)* parliamentarians and *(b)* the armed services of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [80924]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence greatly values the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. The scheme was subject to a review in 2006, which assessed that the scheme performs an important and valuable role in giving Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords an understanding of the role, operations and management of the armed forces.

Defence: Finance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the defence budget was spent on responding to *(a)* natural disasters, *(b)* network failures or disruption and *(c)* criminal activity in each year since 2008. [79110]

Nick Harvey: Natural disasters, network failures or disruption, or criminal activity are the lead responsibility of other Government Departments and the Defence budget does not include provision for them.

Where the Ministry of Defence is called upon to assist, we would do so free of charge where there was an imminent threat to human life, or seek repayment of the additional costs to defence in the case of less severe threats. We do not keep a central record of all the costs we reclaim. Thus, the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: Procurement

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected time scales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Nimrod MRA4 project. [80518]

Peter Luff: The initial approved cost for the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft project was £2.813 billion. The procurement costs as at March 2011 were £3.010 billion, excluding the cost of capital charges and support phase costs, which had been included in previously reported costs. By May 2010, Nimrod MRA4 was 114 months late and £789 million over the original approved cost.

Following the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Government took the decision that, owing to the financial blackhole it inherited, the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft would not be brought into service. The prime contractor for the programme was BAE Systems. Major subcontractors included Rolls-Royce, Boeing, Smiths Industries and Thales; however, BAE Systems did not develop the Nimrod MRA4 as part of a consortium.

There was no guarantee when the aircraft would be ready or how much more it would have cost.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected time scales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Lynx Wildcat project. [80808]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The original approval for the Wildcat project design and manufacture (D and M) phase was £1.803 billion. The current expected out-turn cost of the D and M phase is £1.644 billion as at 31 March 2011.

The first Wildcat delivery is forecast for April 2012 with initial operating capabilities and in-service dates of January 2014 for the Army variant and January 2015 for the Royal Navy variant.

The prime contractor for Wildcat D and M is Agusta Westland. There is no consortium for the delivery of Wildcat, but Agusta Westland has subcontracted some elements of the project.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Seawolf MLU project. [81168]

Peter Luff: The original cash budget set in 1999 for the development and manufacture phases of the Seawolf mid life update (SWMLU) was £270 million (after adjustment for forecast inflation). The final projected cash cost is currently estimated at £280 million. The increase is largely due to decisions taken by the previous Government which affected ship availability at the planned update installation dates.

SWMLU entered service in 2009 following installation on the first Type 23 (T23) frigate and there are currently three SWMLU fitted T23 ships in service. The remainder of the T23 fleet will be updated before the end of the decade.

The prime contractor is BAE Mission Systems, which is not part of a consortium.

Defence: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the Scottish Prime Contract in each year since 2003. [81096]

Mr Robathan: The amount spent on Regional Prime Contract Scotland since 2003 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Core service spend (£ million)*
2003-04	19.8
2004-05	83.3
2005-06	97.7
2006-07	98.9
2007-08	91.1
2008-09	73.7
2009-10	96.0
2010-11	84.6
2011-12	34.2

Note:
The spend figure given for 2011-12 is for April to September 2011 only

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies submitted an expression of interest in the Regional Prime Scotland and Northern Ireland contract. [81097]

Mr Robathan: The 70 companies which submitted an expression of interest (EOI) for the Scotland and Northern Ireland Regional Prime are shown in the following list.

AECOM Ltd
Amey PLC
Arthur Mackay & Co Ltd
Arup
Babcock International Group
BAE Systems Surface Ships Support Ltd
BAM Nuttal Ltd
Barnes Group Ltd
Bell Ingram Ltd
BRITSPACE
Bruton Knowles
Carillion Enterprise Ltd
CCG Construction Ltd
City Building (Glasgow) LLP
COFELY Ltd
Currie and Brown UK Ltd
Daden Ltd
DynCorp International
Ecovert FM Ltd
Faithful + Gould
Forbo Flooring UK Ltd
G3 Systems
GBM Demolition
George Leslie Ltd

Godfrey Syrett Ltd
GSS Plant
GVA Grimley Ltd
HCR Ltd
HOCHTIEF Facility Management GmBH
Iconoclast Ltd
Integral UK Ltd
Interior Services Group
Interserve Ltd
Kelda Water Services (Defence) Ltd
Kellogg Brown & Root Ltd
Kier Facilities Services Ltd
Landmarc Support Services Ltd
MANSELL Construction Services Ltd
McLaren Construction Group
Miller Developments Ltd
MITIE Group PLC
MVA Consultancy Ltd
Northcroft Group Ltd
NICEIC Consulting
Osiris Marine Services Ltd
PDP Green Consulting Ltd
Pick Everard
PriDE (SERP) Ltd
Provelio Ltd
Rider Levett Bucknall UK Ltd
Robertson Group Ltd
RW Services Ltd
Sage (UK) Ltd
Savills (L&P) Ltd
Serco Ltd
Sodexo Ltd
Specialised Technology Group
Specialist Subsea Services Ltd
SSE Contracting
Tarmac Ltd
The Erith Group of Companies
Thomas Johnstone Ltd
Thomas Vale Construction Ltd
Turner Facility Management
UK Power Network Holdings
URS Corporation Ltd
Veolia Water
Voormeroon Ltd
Wates Group Ltd
Willmott Dixon Capital Works Ltd

A further five companies based in Northern Ireland also submitted an EOI. However, their names have been withheld for security reasons.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the deadline date is for submission of the final tender solutions for the Prime Scotland and Northern Ireland Contract. [81098]

Mr Robathan: The current estimated date for final tender submissions for the Scotland and Northern Ireland Regional Prime Contract is February 2013.

Consultants

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on external consultants from 1 May 2010 to 1 November 2011. [79655]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 9 November 2011]:* The total spend on consultancy contracts (as defined by the Government Procurement Service) for the 17-month period 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2011 (the latest data available) for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) was £33.014 million. This includes the MOD agencies and Trading Funds. By comparison, the total spend on consultancy contracts (as defined by the Government Procurement Service) for the 12-month period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 for the MOD was £79 million.

We continue to minimise expenditure on consultancy in compliance with the tighter controls announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), last year and I welcome the sharp reduction in the cost of using such consultants that we have achieved as a result.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish his Department's guidance on employing external consultants. [81295]

Peter Luff: A copy of the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s most recent guidance on employing external consultants—the Defence Instruction Implementing the Freeze on Consultancy Spend—Notice 2010DIN08-23 of July 2010 will be placed in the Library of the House. This updates the departmental guidance on consultancy assistance, a copy of which I will also place in the Library of the House.

The current MOD practice on employing external consultants is in line with the guidance published by the Cabinet Office on 24 May 2010, as updated in September 2011, which is available at the following address:

http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/
guidanceonactionsandprocessesv2Oct2011

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78137]

Mr Robathan: A close and effective link between pay and performance is a key element of the reward arrangements for the civil service. The performance element of pay is colloquially known as a bonus, but it is a misleading description because the performance-related element of pay is not additional, but part of the departmental pay bill.

For senior civil servants (SCS) on standard contracts, performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments. Any award is based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed against their peers and awards are made to those judged to have made the greatest in-year contribution to business objectives. There is no restriction on the nature of the contribution but it must benefit the Department or Defence more widely. Recommendations for awards are considered by moderation committees and must be linked to clear evidence of delivery.

While all satisfactory performers at SCS level are eligible to be considered for a non-consolidated performance award, the percentage of staff who actually receive them is restricted by the Cabinet Office. Currently only the top 25% may earn one.

Senior fixed-term employees are individuals who are recruited through fair and open competition from outside the civil service. Those employed as senior fixed-term appointees (FTAs) are on individual contracts and have a higher percentage of pay set to performance awards which are judged against stringent and stretching delivery-based objectives. Some have staged payments and it is now usual to pay a smaller annual performance award with the remainder deferred for two to three years and judged against the delivery of medium to longer-term objectives. Performance is judged by line management with assistance from senior officials, stakeholders, remuneration committees and in some cases internal audit.

Details of how many SCS staff received a non-consolidated performance award each year are shown in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: SCS permanent staff

Performance year	*Financial year*	*Number of awards paid*
2010-11	2011-12	[1]—
2009-10	2010-11	169
2008-09	2009-10	195
2007-08	2008-09	187
2006-07	2007-08	186
2005-06	2006-07	181

[1] Please refer to transparency data at:
http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/aboutDefence/Corporatepublications/financialreports/salaries/nonconsolidatedperformanceawards.htm
A copy of the information has been placed in the Library of the House.

Table 2: SCS fixed term appointees

SCS FTA performance year	*Financial year*	*Number of awards paid*
2010-11	2011-12	[1]—
2009-10	2010-11	23
2008-09	2009-10	27
2007-08	2008-09	16
2006-07	2007-08	10
2005-06	2006-07	12

[1] Please refer to transparency data at:
http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/aboutDefence/Corporatepublications/financialreports/salaries/nonconsolidatedperformanceawards.htm
A copy of the information has been placed in the Library of the House.

For staff below the SCS, non-consolidated performance awards are paid to those who meet the eligibility criteria. Higher levels of award are available for those who have contributed most to the business. These awards are distributed on the basis of relative assessment among peers and are designed to encourage continuous high attainment against stretching objectives.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) also operates an in-year non-consolidated payment scheme, the special bonus scheme (SBS), which rewards eligible MOD civilians for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of a professional qualification the use of which benefits MOD and the individual. Separate arrangements apply to MOD police officers.

The following table details the total number of payments made to staff below the SCS by way of non-consolidated performance payments and SBS awards by financial year.

Financial year	*Total number of awards made*[1]
2006-07	55,339
2007-08	61,878
2008-09	71,940
2009-10	66,585
2010-11	65,603
2011-12	[2]—

[1] It is not possible to state how many individuals received awards since the data are held as number of awards made and not the number of recipients.
[2] Please refer to transparency data at:
http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/aboutDefence/Corporatepublications/financialreports/salaries/nonconsolidatedperformanceawards.htm
A copy of the information has been placed in the Library of the House.

This response excludes information on staff below the SCS in MOD Trading Funds which have separate pay delegations.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of security vetting is required for *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* ministerial-appointed policy advisers in his Department; and if he will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77882]

Mr Robathan: Circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting check are described in HMG Personnel Security Controls document, which is available from the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within the Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within the Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the quarterly publication of the list of special advisers which is available in the Library of the House and can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office Website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

There are no ministerial-appointed policy advisers in the Department.

Ex-servicemen: Finance

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funds are available to support community groups assisting former armed services personnel in England and Wales. [79910]

Mr Robathan: The Community Covenant was launched across the UK in June 2011. It is a voluntary scheme designed to improve integration between the armed forces and civilian community at a local level. The armed forces community which the scheme is designed to help includes service personnel, their families, the bereaved and veterans. To support this scheme the Ministry of Defence has set aside up to £30 million over the next four years to fund local projects across the UK that support this aim.

Information regarding the Community Covenant and Community Covenant Grant Scheme is available on the Ministry of Defence website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/Showcase/ProvidingForOurPeople.htm

France: Military Alliances

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effect on UK-French defence co-operation of planned reductions to the French defence budget. [79067]

Mr Philip Hammond: The potential for reductions in the French defence budget is a matter for the French Government. It is clear, however, that France is as committed as the UK to strengthening Franco-British Defence co-operation and maintaining military capabilities against a background of constraints on public expenditure. It will therefore be in the interest of both nations actively to explore options for co-operation in both operational and equipment areas in accordance with the UK-France defence treaty.

Iran

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning has been done in relation to a possible conflict with Iran. [80424]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on the 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 571-72, to my hon. Friend the Member for Kettering (Mr Hollobone).

Malaysia: Military Decorations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, following the announcement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State on 26 October 2011, when he expects those who have been awarded the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal to be notified that they may wear it; and if he will make a statement. [79130]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement that I made on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 11WS.

Military Aid: Equipment

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military equipment has been gifted by the UK to overseas military and security forces in 2011 to date; to which country each was gifted; and what the estimated monetary value was in each case. [76164]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Information on equipment gifted to overseas Governments in 2011 by the Ministry of Defence is provided in the following table:

Equipment	*Recipient*	*Value (£)*
IT equipment	Sierra Leone	3,970
Military communication equipment	United States	500
Musical instruments and transport costs	Sierra Leone	8,013
Five expeditionary elevated Sangars (temporary fortified positions)	Afghanistan	120,921
Musical instruments and transport costs	Iraq	5,546
Trucks, trailers, and other equipment	Belize	10,000
Recreational and communication equipment, etc.	Belize	2,000
Personal protective equipment	Afghanistan	9,567
Ammunition supply point (nominal value as there was no sales potential)	United States	1
20 lightweight explosive ordnance disposal suits	Lebanon	26,000
Medical equipment, navigation aids, vehicle maintenance and recovery equipment, survivability related kit and transport costs	Mauritania	119,500
20 lightweight explosive ordnance disposal suits and transport costs	Algeria	29,000
Musical instruments	Ethiopia	2,500

In addition, a gift to the Libyan Government of naval equipment worth £64,810 has been approved but not yet implemented.

Military Bases: Radiation Exposure

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on *(a)* defence sites in the UK and *(b)* sites overseas used by British military forces that (i) are known to have been and (ii) might have been contaminated with radium that has been disposed of since 1945; when each such disposal took place; and what level of radioactivity has been recorded at each such disposal site. [80877]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD Police and Guarding Agency

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the case for amalgamating the MOD police with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary; and if he will make a statement. [80592]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence police and Civil Nuclear Constabulary are already working towards closer operational interoperability and collaboration in order to enhance the effectiveness and protection of defence and civil nuclear sites.

Ministry of Defence and Department for Energy and Climate Change Ministers have recently agreed that a scoping study should be undertaken to establish whether a formal merger would bring further benefits.

Navy: Animal Experiments

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to review the use of animals in experiments relating to naval personnel. [79066]

Peter Luff: Animal experimentation at Dstl has saved the lives of many service men and women.

Dstl takes animal welfare extremely seriously. Animal experimentation is only undertaken when no alternatives are available. It is reviewed in accordance with the principles of the three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement). Dstl has an active programme to increase the implementation of the three Rs by exploring the use of non-living models in order to reduce the requirement for animal experimentation.

Type 23 Frigates

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Type 23 frigate has been allocated to be Fleet Ready Escort from 1 November 2011; and if he will make a statement. [81269]

Nick Harvey: As of 7 November 2011 HMS Iron Duke has been the Fleet Ready Escort. Between 1 November and 7 November 2011 a number of other Royal Navy units were at sea maintaining the security of UK waters. Should a warship have been required for emergency stand-by during this period, one would have been tasked accordingly.

War Memorials: Vandalism

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to prevent the desecration of war memorials. [80145]

Mr Robathan: It is appalling that memorials are being vandalised and violated in the manner reported. The Ministry of Defence supports any plan to protect the memory of those who have served and paid the ultimate price defending our country.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of his Department's funding for Burma was spent on assistance to refugees and internally displaced peoples along the Thailand-Burma border in the latest period for which figures are available. [79719]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: DFID's project 'Assistance to Conflict Affected People, Eastern Burma' provides aid to refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) along the Thailand-Burma border. By the end of 2010 the project had provided aid for food security for more than 42,000 IDPs inside Burma, funded more than 4,000 new or improved sanitation facilities in 158 villages in Burma, and given grants to help with the cost of schooling to more than 5,500 families. The project also contributes towards the provision of food, shelter and other necessities for nearly 150,000 Burmese refugees in Thailand, supports improved access to legal assistance for refugees in camps in Thailand, and finances the purchase of medical supplies which benefit people affected by conflict in eastern Burma.

In the financial year 2010-11 the project spent £2.7 million, representing just over 8% of DFID's funding for Burma.

Central America: Storms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to those affected by the recent tropical depression in Central America. [79862]

Mr Duncan: DFID is monitoring the crisis closely. Essential humanitarian assistance is being provided by the Governments and national relief agencies of affected countries, supported by the international community, including the UN and the International Federation of the Red Cross. UK assistance is being provided through the core contributions DFID makes each year to the UN's global emergency relief fund and to the international Red Cross movement.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claims are outstanding; and from which countries the applicants in those cases came. [81311]

Damian Green: The number of asylum applications made since April 2006 pending an initial decision or further review, excluding dependants, as at 31 August 2011 was 10,810. Of these 10,810 asylum cases, 5,655 were pending an initial decision and 5,155 were pending further review. A copy of the table disaggregated by country of nationality will be placed in the Library of the House.

Total figures for the number of asylum applications awaiting an initial decision or further review are published monthly in monthly asylum statistics. Further information on asylum is available from the immigration statistics release available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

The UK Border Agency also publishes additional "work in progress caseload" figures annually, which include cases that are subject to removal action, as part of the asylum performance framework measures. This is available from the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/further-key-data/

Asylum: EU Countries

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers have been transferred to another EU member state under the Dublin Regulation in each year since the regulation came into effect; and if she will make a statement; [81155]

(2) how many asylum seekers have been found to have *(a)* already applied for asylum in another EU member state or *(b)* illegally transited through the EU after referring their fingerprints to Eurodac, in each year since Eurodac was established to date; and if she will make a statement. [81156]

Damian Green: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Calendar year	*Number of applicants with positive Eurodac fingerprint matches with other member states*[1]	*Transfers to other member states under the Dublin Regulation*[2]
2003	893	1,377
2004	2,486	1,904
2005	2,054	1,924
2006	2,334	1,663
2007	2,330	1,157
2008	3,444	1,246
2009	3,917	1,005
2010	2,204	1,162
2011 (to 31 October 2011	1,870	883
Total	21,532	12,321

[1] We are unable to breakdown the figures for Eurodac fingerprint matches between those who were asylum seekers in another member state and who had illegally transited through Europe.

[2] This figure represents all transfers under the Dublin Regulation, as such it includes people who have not claimed asylum in the UK, however these applicants would have claimed asylum in another member state.

Criminal Records

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has considered conducting an independent review on the amendment of an individual's criminal records where there is substantial evidence in support of removing the item in instances where failure to remove it would mean the individual is unable to take up employment. [80413]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* On 22 October 2010, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), commissioned the Government's Independent Advisor for Criminality Information Management, Mrs. Sunita Mason, to conduct a review of the criminal records regime in England and Wales. Mrs. Mason has completed her review and passed recommendations for improvements to Home Office Ministers.

The Government have included provisions to reflect a number of these recommendations in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, including a new independent right of appeal so that an individual can appeal against the inclusion of information on a disclosure certificate if they believe it should not be there.

The second phase of the review includes consideration of what capacity individuals should have to access, challenge and correct their own criminal records. The report on the second phase is expected to be published towards the end of the year, together with a Government response to all the recommendations from the review.

Departmental Manpower

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff moved to a different post in that agency in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [80540]

Damian Green: It is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to provide an account of post-by-post movement within the UK Border Agency.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many airport liaison officers are employed by the UK Border Agency; and what their average annual salary is. [80541]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency employs 112 immigration liaison officers and immigration liaison managers with salaries ranging from £15,386 to £37,964. These figures do not include overseas allowances.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff were based in each overseas country on 1 November 2011. [80547]

Damian Green: The number of UK Border Agency staff based in each overseas country is shown in the following table, with the exception that details of small locations are not shown for data protection and security reasons.

The information is not available at 1 November 2011 except at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency work force based abroad by country	*Full-time equivalent work force at date shown*[1]
UK Border Agency work force based abroad[1], *excluding International Group below, 30 September 2011*	
Belgium	30
France	75
International Group work force abroad[2], *30 September 2011*	
India	252
United Arab Emirates	176
Nigeria	146
Pakistan	88
China	88
South Africa	72
Philippines	59
Unites States of America	57
Russia	52
Turkey	46
Kenya	41
Bangladesh	40
Ghana	39
Thailand	36
China (Hong Kong)	30
Italy	24
Egypt	24
France	23
Iran	22
Columbia	18
Jamaica	18
Jordan	18
Ukraine	18
Saudi Arabia	15
Sri Lanka	14
Spain	13
Malaysia	13
Poland	13
Serbia	11
Brazil	10
Canada	9
Indonesia	9
Kuwait	9
Albania	8

UK Border Agency work force based abroad by country	*Full-time equivalent work force at date shown*[1]
Ireland	8
Kasikistan	8
Morocco	8
Macedonia	7
Qatar	7
Sweden	7
Ethiopia	6
Australia	6
Work force based in countries having 5 or fewer staff	143
Total of International Group staff abroad, above	1,709
Total of all UK Border Agency based abroad	1,814

[1] Figure given is for work force based abroad and excludes staff who may work abroad but are based in the United Kingdom.
[2] The majority of the staff shown are locally engaged by Foreign and Commonwealth Office and are deployed on UK Border Agency work whose costs are invoiced to the UK Border Agency. The figures include UK based staff posted abroad. The figures do not include temporary workers.
Note:
It is UK Border Agency policy not to disclose staff figures which would identify blocks of staff below or equal to 5 as this could in some circumstances identify individuals.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff there were at each grade in the UK Border Agency on the latest date for which figures are available. [80548]

Damian Green: The information requested is given in the following table:

Workforce by grades	*30 September 2011 FTE*[1]
Senior civil service	60
Grade 6	167
Grade 7	514
HM Inspector's of Immigration (equivalent to SEO)	223
Senior Executive Officers (SEO)	1,078
Chief Immigration Officers (HEO)	818
Higher Executive Officers (HEO)	2,205
Executive Officers (EO)	3,351
Former HMRC grades equivalent to EO (EO)	3,233
Immigration Officers (EO)	2107
Assistant Immigration Officers (AO)	1,821
Administrative Officers (AO)	3,135
Assistant Administrative Officers (AA)	1,289
Locally engaged abroad LE1	28
Locally engaged abroad LE2	174
Locally engaged abroad LE3	615
Locally engaged abroad LE4	375
Locally engaged abroad LE5	37
Temporary workers engaged abroad[2]	200
Contractors, including inward seconded police.	187
Agency workers where grade is not centrally recorded	25
UK Border Agency total	21,642

[1] Full-time equivalent FTE.
[2] This figure is estimated on the basis of August numbers.

This information is taken from data normally used for management information only. It has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications, is provisional and subject to change.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of the staff reduction scheme at the UK Border Agency over the last 18 months. [80568]

Damian Green: Available costs for voluntary exit schemes in the last two financial years to 31 March 2011 may be found in the UK Border Agency Annual Reports 2009-10 and 2010-11 here:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/

For ease of reference the figures are summarised in the following table:

	2010-11	*2009-10*
Total number of exit packages	1,186	112
Costs in £000		
Lump Sum Payments (£)	29,216	2,232
Additional Pension Costs (£)	26,963	5,305
Total resource cost (£)	56,179	7,537

Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on *(a)* scheduled air flights and *(b)* charter flights to carry out deportations in each of the last 24 months. [80333]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency monthly spend since November 2009 on scheduled flights for removals is shown in the following table.

	£
2009	
November	1,477,008.57
December	1,601,513.81
2010	
January	1,401,829.60
February	1,487,431.91
March	1,524,651.36
April	1,497,952.66
May	1,445,998.87
June	1,343,173.26
July	2,210,193.11
August	1,912,613.42
September	2,569,642.84
October	1,694,158.62
November	2,299,273.81
December	1,895,906.76
2011	
January	400,174.54
February	768,587.46
March	1,593,606.90
April	1,614,095.36
May	778,128.19
June	1,532,643.14
July	2,062,739.60
August	1,408,311.80
September	1,733,394.85
October	1,838,016.64

	£
Total	38,091,047.08

The above figures represent a net spend, which is a live figure and decreases as refunds are made against flights which are cancelled, such as where a court issues a temporary injunction preventing removal, or an individual makes a last minute application which has to be considered before removal can proceed.

The UK Border Agency monthly spend on chartered flights since November 2009 is shown in the following table.

	£
2009	
November	820,287.93
December	744,425.00
2010	
January	492,495.00
February	861,022.09
March	942,123.00
April	469,367.50
May	786,785.00
June	976,972.90
July	895,145.00
August	590,207.27
September	562,192.39
October	792,179.19
November	952,227.08
December	265,466.54
2011	
January	276,625.66
February	538,024.81
March	988,362.34
April	750,794.19
May	496,099.28
June	1,172,991.52
July	727,743.87
August	484,496.58
September	683,308.06
October	564,132.18

Neither set of figures constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals deported by the UK Border Agency were accompanied by *(a)* officials and *(b)* contractors on their removal from the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [80338]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency uses private companies to escort individuals being removed from the UK where they refuse to leave compliantly, they are vulnerable (such as having a medical condition which requires the presence of a medical escort) or they are being removed on a chartered flight.

At least one UK Border Agency member of staff accompanies every chartered flight leaving the United Kingdom.

For the period April to June 2011, the latest period for which figures are available, 408 people were removed on chartered flights.

For the same period, of 3,850 individuals removed from the UK on leaving immigration detention, 669 were escorted on scheduled flights.

Deportation: Complaints

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* claims have been made by (i) males and (ii) females of each nationality in each age group against her Department and its agencies and contractors as a result of alleged injuries and assaults sustained during the enforcement of deportation orders in each of the last five years; and what the location was of each alleged incident. [80336]

Damian Green: Complaints made by individuals detained in immigration removal centres or being removed from the UK have been centrally collated since December 2008. Information prior to this date is not available. The question has been interpreted as relating to the number of complaints and claims made that an incident allegedly took place during the removal process. All complaints are investigated and where there is an allegation of assault, the matter is referred to the police.

The number of complaints where an individual has alleged assault during an enforced removal are shown in the following table.

	Number of complaints
December 2008	n/a
December 2009	33
December 2010	41
December 2011 (to 9 November)	26

n/a = Not available.

These figures are based on management information, which is subject to change, and does not form part of our publicised statistics.

Information on claims and a distinction between gender, nationality, age group and location cannot be provided without examination of individual complaint records and individual legal files at disproportionate cost.

Detention Centres: Children

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her speech of 16 December 2010, what progress she has made on her proposal to end the detention of children for immigration purposes. [80666]

Damian Green: In December 2010 the Government published their plans for ending detention of children in a way which protects the welfare of children while ensuring that families with no right to remain in the country leave the UK.

On 1 March 2011 the UK Border Agency rolled out a new family returns process to achieve this. This process gives families every opportunity to leave without the need for enforcement action and offers financial or practical assistance where appropriate.

Where families choose not to co-operate, the UK Border Agency will take steps to ensure that they leave. In every case the Border Agency must submit a tailored family returns plan to a new independent Family Returns Panel comprising safeguarding and medical experts who advise on how the welfare of the children can best be safeguarded during the return.

Return plans may include a strictly time-limited stay in new family-friendly pre-departure accommodation, Cedars, where Barnardo's provide welfare and support services to help families prepare for their return. This is used as a last resort.

Tinsley House immigration removal centre remains in use for families intercepted at the border who are being held while arrangements are made for their immediate return and, in rare cases, for criminal and other high risk families who cannot be safely accommodated in pre-departure accommodation.

Details of the numbers of children held on this basis are published at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-sep2011

As set out on 16 December 2010, families may be held at ports for up to 24 hours to determine whether they should be admitted to the country or removed on a return flight.

Harassment: Victim Support Schemes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what services and support are routinely available to victims of stalking or harassment in England and Wales. [79967]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office is working closely with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to provide appropriate support to victims of stalking. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 522W, in which I highlighted our victim support initiatives, which included the appointment of dedicated single points of contact (SPOCs) in each police force area.

On 8 March 2011 the Home Office published its action plan for tackling violence against women and girls for the spending review period, which included seven actions to tackle stalking. As part of this we committed to continue to fund the National Stalking Helpline over the spending review period. We have worked with them to develop their business plan and supported their launch (in April 2010) of an online forum to provide support and advice for victims of stalking. We are also running a series of regional events to raise awareness of stalking and have invited the helpline to participate in four awareness-raising events we are running across the country.

We also strongly supported the recent National Stalking Awareness Week (11-15 April 2010) jointly organised by the three main charities that work to prevent stalking: Protection Against Stalking, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and Network for Surviving Stalking.

Identity and Passport Service

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the potential effects of reductions in staff numbers at the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) on *(a)* passport security and *(b)* the ability of IPS offices to meet their targets for passport production. [81062]

Damian Green *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* There have been regular and ongoing assessments against forecast passport demand and resource requirements. Based on these assessments, the reduction that the Identity and Passport Service has made in its staffing will not impact upon passport security or its ability to meet its targets for passport production.

Immigration

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers her Department employs overseas to screen passengers of inbound flights to the UK at airports *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the EU. [80545]

Damian Green: The number of immigration liaison officers and immigration liaison managers employed and who work overseas at airports screening passengers of inbound flights to the UK as at November 2011 is set out in the following table:

	Number
EU countries	23
Non-EU countries	89
Total	112

These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Immigration: Romania

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the migration advisory committee to report on the easing of restrictions on residents of Romania and Bulgaria entering the UK to work. [81343]

Damian Green: The committee published its report on 4 November. The report can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/mac

Knives: Crime

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knife crimes were reported in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral, *(c)* the North West region, *(d)* England and *(e)* the UK in (i) 2011 and (ii) each of the last five years. [80794]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Data for selected offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument have been collected by the Home Office since April 2007 and are therefore only available over the past four years. Additionally, knife crime data are published on a financial year basis and not calendar year. From these data, it is not possible to identify which offences specifically involve the use of a knife.

Data are collected at police force area level only, so data are not available for the Wallasey constituency or the Wirral. The collection of police recorded data for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

In 2007-08, the selected offences included: attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery. The collection was expanded in 2008-09 to also include actual bodily harm (ABH), threats to kill, sexual assault and rape offences. Therefore figures are not comparable with those offences recorded in 2007-08.

Until April 2010, West Midlands police had included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns. Since April 2010, they have excluded these offences in line with other police forces. As such, their 2010-11 data are not comparable with their data for earlier years and therefore data for England are provided including and excluding figures for West Midlands.

Data for 2007-08 to 2010-11 are provided in table A.

Data for homicides involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument are collected via the Homicide Index. Data for 2010-11 will be available at police force area level from January 2012. Data for 2005-06 to 2009-10 are provided in table B.

Table A: Number of selected violent and sexual offences[1] involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by police forces in Merseyside, the North West, England and Wales, 2007-08 to 2010-11

Area	2007-08[2]	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Merseyside	757	892	798	587
North West	3,629	4,998	4,163	3,681
England[3]	24,110	34,806	32,568	31,524
England (Excl. West Midlands)[4]	20,939	31,124	29,352	28,526
Wales	899	928	765	733

[1] Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.

[2] The collection was expanded in 2008-09 to include actual bodily harm (ABH), threats to kill, sexual assault and rape offences. Therefore figures are not comparable with those offences recorded in 2007-08.

[3] Figures for England include unbroken bottle and glass offences, which are outside the scope of this special collection, for Surrey and Sussex police. As such, data for these forces are not directly comparable to data for other forces.

[4] Data are shown excluding West Midlands as West Midlands included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns until April 2010 but now exclude these offences in line with other forces. As such, their 2010-11 data are not comparable with their data for earlier years.

Table B: Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide which involved the use of a knife or sharp instrument, police forces in Merseyside, the North West, England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2009-10

Area	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Merseyside	10	10	9	11	8
North West	29	32	42	42	30
England	218	259	256	244	198
Wales	7	11	11	11	11

[1] As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of knife crime in the West Midlands. [80871]

Nick Herbert: West Midlands police recorded 2,998 selected serious offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in 2010-11 and 3,216 of these offences in 2009-10. The group of offences covered includes: attempted murder, threats to kill, actual bodily harm (ABH) and grievous bodily harm (GBH), robbery, rape and sexual assaults. 2009-10 data include unbroken bottle and glass offences.

These data are published in police force area data tables—Crime in England and Wales 2010-11 (tables 9 and 10) at the link as follows:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Additionally, West Midlands police recorded nine homicides involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument in 2009-10. Force level homicide data by method of killing are not routinely published but data for 2010-11 will be available in January 2012.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter of 1 August 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding Mr Frank Tomlin, reference M13670/11. [79895]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 9 November 2011.

Police Community Support Officers: Wales

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department plans to allocate to police community support officers in Wales in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [80701]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Government will continue to support the role of police community support officers through the dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Fund until 2012-13, after which it will be for the democratically elected Police and Crime Commissioner, in consultation with the Chief Constable, to take decisions on the funding and resourcing of neighbourhood policing.

The following table sets out the Neighbourhood Policing Fund allocations for Welsh forces in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Neighbourhood policing fund allocations for Welsh forces in 2011-12 and 2012-13

£

Force	Allocation 2011-12	Allocation 2012-13
Dyfed-Powys	1,646,340	1,636,655
Gwent	2,962,697	2,945,269
North Wales	3,337,809	3,318,175
South Wales	6,728,610	6,689,030

Police: Buildings

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many buildings used or owned by police forces are scheduled for closure in each of the police authority areas in Wales. [81356]

Nick Herbert: This information is not collected centrally. Decisions about resources are for chief constables to take locally with their police authorities.

Police: Manpower

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police *(a)* constables, *(b)* sergeants and *(c)* inspectors were employed at each pay band in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2011. [81354]

Nick Herbert: Available data show the number of police constables, sergeants and inspectors employed in England and Wales, their salaries by top and bottom points on the pay scale in England and Wales for 2007, 2009 and 2011.

The information is given in the table.

Number[1] of police constables, sergeants and inspectors employed, and salaries for England and Wales , 2007, 2009 and 2011 by pay scale [2, 3, 4]

	Police constables			*Police sergeants*			*Police inspectors*		
31 March each year	*Number of police constables[1]*	*Top of the pay scale (£)*	*Bottom of the pay scale (£)*	*Number of police sergeants[1]*	*Top of the pay scale (£)*	*Bottom of the pay scale (£)*	*Number of police inspectors[1]*	*Top of the pay scale (£)*	*Bottom of the pay scale (£)*
2007	109,400	32,985	21,009	21,949	37,071	32,985	7,034	45,843	42,264
2009	110,080	34,707	22,104	22,664	39,006	34,707	7,398	48,234	44,469
2011	106,609	36,519	23,259	22,265	41,040	36,519	6,764	50,751	46,788

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Pay scale information for 2007 is as at 31 March 2007, reflecting salaries applicable from 1 September 2006.
[3] Pay scale information for 2009 is as at 31 March 2009, reflecting salaries applicable from 1 September 2008.
[4] Pay scale information for 2011 is as at 31 March 2011, reflecting salaries applicable from 1 September 2010. These are the current salaries.

UK Border Agency: Finance

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the chief inspector of the UK Border Agency (UKBA) on changes in the UKBA's budget. [78560]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has had no discussions with the independent chief inspector of the UK Border Agency on changes in the agency's budget.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Reform

8. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what timetable he has set for implementation of his proposed reforms in respect of *(a)* the House of Lords and *(b)* creating fewer and more equal-sized parliamentary constituencies. [80663]

Mr Harper: After pre-legislative scrutiny, we will introduce a Government Bill in the next session of Parliament and are committed to holding the first elections to the reformed House of Lords on 7 May 2015. After extensive consultations, the Boundary Commissions are required to submit their final recommendations to Ministers before 1 October 2013.

13. **Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations he has received on House of Lords reform. [80669]

Mr Harper: The Government continue to receive a number of representations on reform of the House of Lords, with the majority calling for change to its composition.

Voter Registration

9. **Mr Betts:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the potential effect on levels of voter registration of not creating a legal offence of failure to return an individual electoral registration request. [80664]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Nick Smith) in oral questions earlier today.

Electoral Register

10. **Simon Kirby:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to improve the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register. [80665]

Mr Harper: The UK Government want the maximum possible number of people on the electoral register and are considering a number of ways to help improve registration in the context of the move to individual electoral registration. The Government, politicians, political parties, electoral administrators and others in society all have a role to play in encouraging participation.

We have learnt from the experience in Northern Ireland and are phasing in individual electoral registration over two years. We want it to be as easy as possible to register, while keeping the register more accurate and up to date. Under our proposed system, people will be invited to register in 2014 and will receive a number of reminders, which will include doorstep visits.

The Government are also funding research to understand the current state of the electoral register, and we will be carrying out further research to find the best ways to target and encourage the groups we know are currently under-registered to register to vote.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to improve the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register. [80659]

Mr Harper: The UK Government want the maximum possible number of people on the electoral register and are considering a number of ways to help improve registration in the context of the move to individual electoral registration.

The Government, politicians, political parties, electoral administrators and others in society all have a role to play in encouraging participation. We have learnt from the experience in Northern Ireland and are phasing in individual electoral registration over two years. We want it to be as easy as possible to register, while keeping the register more accurate and up to date. Under our proposed system, people will be invited to register in 2014 and will receive a number of reminders, including doorstep visits.

The Government are also funding research to understand the current state of the electoral register, and we will be carrying out further research to find the best ways to target and encourage the groups we know are currently under-registered to register to vote.

Devolution

11. **Andrew George:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to take further steps in respect of devolution. [80667]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government are overseeing a fundamental shift of power away from Westminster to local councils, communities and individuals in England. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland we are committed to working constructively with the devolved Administrations to make devolution a success.

Succession to the Throne

12. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had on changes to the law on succession to the throne; and if he will make a statement. [80668]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Gainsborough (Mr Leigh) in oral questions earlier today.

News International

John McDonnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what meetings he has had with representatives of News International; and whether the BBC licence fee settlement was discussed at any such meeting. [80598]

The Deputy Prime Minister: A list of my official meetings with external organisations, including representatives of the media, is published quarterly and can be found on the Cabinet Office website

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

I have not discussed the BBC licence fee settlement with representatives of News International.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities: Hospices

Mr Streeter: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken to reduce the burden of regulation on independent charitable hospices. [81027]

Mr Hurd: The review of the Charities Act 2006 announced by myself on 8 November 2011, which will be led by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts, will consider a broad range of issues, including the definition of charity and the role and status of the Charity Commission as the sector's regulator. It will also look at further reducing the burden of regulation whilst preserving safeguards that protect the public interest. 'Unshackling Good Neighbours', the report of the Civil Society Red Tape Taskforce, which was chaired by Lord Hodgson, made a number of recommendations that will help charities, for example by simplifying the rules governing public charitable collections and reviewing the law regarding charitable permanent endowment, which I anticipate will be considered by the review.

The other key regulator of charitable hospices is the Care Quality Commission, which, under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, has a duty to ensure that any action it takes is proportionate to the risks against which it would afford safeguards and is targeted only where it is needed. The Care Quality Commission is currently consulting on proposals to simplify and strengthen its regulatory model of monitoring and inspecting providers of regulated activities.

Mr Streeter: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the regulation of charitable hospices; and whether he has plans to take steps in respect of any duplication in regulation in the sector. [81028]

Mr Hurd: The Charity Commission has advised that there is only one area where its regulation duplicates that of another regulator. Charities that are also companies limited by guarantee have to submit similar returns to the Charity Commission and Companies House. Those regulators have agreed to work together to identify and analyse potential solutions to this duplication.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80175]

Mr Maude: The information requested for Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Since January 2011, contracts over £10,000 in value are published on Contracts Finder.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in his Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77349]

Mr Maude: The information is not held in the form requested.

Ministerial meetings with external organisations are published at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Permanent secretaries' meetings are published at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-permanent-secretaries%E2%80%99-meetings-external-organisations

A series of speeches by Cabinet Office Ministers can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/type/96

European Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many ministerial-level meetings have been held in his Department during the Government's examination of the balance of existing European Union competences. [80242]

Mr Maude: The Department routinely hosts ministerial meetings on issues covered in the coalition agreement.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many members of staff in his Department are working on the Government's examination of the balance of existing European Union competences. [80243]

Mr Maude: The examination of these issues draws on existing resources.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with Internet and social media service providers on modernising Government services in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77348]

Mr Maude: I have not had any specific discussions with internet or social media service providers about modernising Government services.

However, since May 2010 I have had regular discussions with Martha Lane Fox, the UK Digital Champion, and informal discussions with the former chief executive of Amazon.co.uk.

In addition, throughout this time I have attended a number of events with delegates from internet and social media providers in order to progress and promote the Government's 'Digital by Default' strategy, which will assist in modernising Government services.

Members' Interests

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons his Department has not updated the list of Ministers' interests since February 2011; and on what date he expects an updated list to be published. [80920]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The list is being updated to reflect recent ministerial changes and an updated version will be published shortly.

Public Sector: Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department plans to offer assistance to the 2011 Carbon Disclosure Project in compiling its latest Public Procurement Report. [78769]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has no plans to offer assistance to the 2011 Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) in compiling its latest Public Procurement Report.

However, the Government Procurement Service will shortly be commencing an exercise to procure a supplier data verification tool. Presently, the scope of the tool is intended to include sustainability data relating to carbon waste and water, information assurance data, and supply chain assurance data relating to SMEs. Any company within the industry that has the capability of providing such a tool will be able to bid for the opportunity.

CDP may well have an interest in bidding.

Public Sector: Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department holds information on the number of public sector staff injured in dangerous dog attacks in the course of their duties. [81002]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not collect this information centrally for the civil service or the wider public sector.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 737W, on voluntary work: young people, how much funding he has allocated to each National Citizen Service pilot that will operate in summer 2012; and how many places will be provided by each such pilot. [81159]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office is currently running a commissioning process for NCS places in 2012. The Cabinet Office will be in a position to confirm the funding and number of NCS places allocated to each provider in 2012 once the commissioning process has concluded.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 737W, on voluntary work: young people, how many young people participated in each National Citizen Service pilot in summer 2011. [81160]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service (NCS) pilot projects take place during the summer and we estimate that over 8,000 young people took part in NCS this summer. The independent evaluation of the first pilots is currently examining the number of participants on this summer's pilots and the numbers retained throughout the projects. The Cabinet Office will be in a position to provide those details once they are available later in the autumn.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 370W, on voluntary work: young people, how many young people *(a)* registered an interest and *(b)* signed up to participate in the 2011 National Citizen Service pilots; and how many young people have (i) registered an interest and (ii) signed up to participate in such pilots in 2012. [81161]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service pilots were delivered in a range of locations across England in its first pilot year. Data provided to the Cabinet Office by National Citizen Service delivery partners indicated that at 17 June 2011 the following numbers of young people had registered their details in each region.

Region	*Number of young people registered*
North-east	6,922
North-west	4,176
Yorkshire and Humber	981
West midlands	7,433
East midlands	425
East of England	1,188
South-west	833
London	9,396
Total	32,284

The independent evaluation of the first pilots is currently examining the number of participants on this summer's pilots and the numbers retained throughout the projects. The Cabinet Office will be in a position to provide those details once they are available later in the autumn.

The Cabinet Office is currently running a commissioning process for NCS places in 2012. The independent evaluation of the second pilot will examine the number of participants on the pilot and the numbers retained through the projects. The Cabinet Office will be in a position to provide these details later in 2012.

TRANSPORT

A14: Suffolk

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects all the information signs on the A14 in Suffolk to be brought into use. [78200]

Mike Penning: The A14 corridor traffic management scheme has installed 31 message signs within the county of Suffolk, 26 of which are available for use. Of the remaining five signs, two are programmed for commissioning to start on 24 November 2011. The remaining three signs are delayed due to wayleave disputes between Ipswich borough council and UK Power Networks, which are preventing the provision of power supplies.

Aviation: Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the blood alcohol limit is for aviation pilots. [80155]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Crawley (Henry Smith) on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 186W.

Biofuels

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the safety of ethanol as an additive to fuel; and what assessment she has made of its effects on engines and engine components. [81308]

Norman Baker: Ethanol has a long history of use as a petrol fuel additive. Commercial grades of ethanol-petrol blends are reported to have been marketed in the UK from the 1920s to the 1960s. However, it was not until 1988 that British Standards explicitly defined an upper limit (of 5%) on the ethanol content of petrol, in order to ensure compatibility of vehicle components and fuels. Any vehicles or products supplied for use in fuel systems since then should be compatible with this limit, 5% ethanol being the maximum that fuel suppliers currently use to meet their Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation targets (currently 4%, rising to 5% in 2013-14). Pumps dispensing any petrol containing more than 5% ethanol are required by law to be labelled "Not suitable for all vehicles: consult vehicle manufacturer before use".

At some point in the future biofuel uptake targets in the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation will need to be increased to meet our EU obligations. However, in view of the fact that the evidence base on biofuels is still developing, the Government have taken the view that it would be premature to increase the targets beyond the 2013-14 target of 5% at present. Nevertheless, it is likely that 10% ethanol blends will be marketed in the future and so the Department commissioned research on the compatibility of different ethanol blends on fuel systems and the risks of carburettor icing. This research is published on the Department's website.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/qinetiq-10-02471

The Government will work with fuel suppliers and vehicle manufacturers to ensure information is available to motorists on which vehicles are compatible with 10% ethanol before it is introduced on a widespread basis.

Caravans: Testing

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to require caravans to have an MOT; and if she will make a statement. [80950]

Mike Penning: No. There are no plans to introduce annual testing (MOTs) for towed caravans.

Cycling: Accidents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of road traffic accidents involving cyclists. [80830]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 110W. In addition, the Minister responsible for cycling policy, the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker), has recently established a cycling stakeholder forum which will, among other things, be looking into how best to tackle the issue of real and perceived danger of cycling.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect of a road crossing at Silvertown on traffic volumes at the Dartford crossing. [80118]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not undertaken an assessment of the likely effect on traffic volumes at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing from a road crossing at Silvertown.

Responsibility for river crossings within the Greater London Authority area are for Transport for London, as would the assessment of impacts from any specific crossing proposals.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the proposed increase in tolls at the Dartford crossing on traffic volume using the *(a)* Blackwall tunnel, *(b)* Rotherhithe tunnel and *(c)* Woolwich ferry. [80119]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not undertaken a specific assessment of the effects on traffic volumes at Blackwall tunnel, Rotherhithe tunnel or the Woolwich ferry from increased charges at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing.

The Department published in June 2011, alongside its consultation document on revisions to the road user charging regime, an assessment of the impacts of its proposals. This recognised that roads to which traffic diverts would be more congested.

The Department intends to revise its assessment of the impacts of its proposals following the recent completion of the consultation process and consideration of the responses made to it.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75624]

Norman Baker: The Department and its seven Executive Agencies have spent £273,611 on advertising to fill job vacancies since May 2010.

Highways Agency: Manpower

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff the Highways Agency employs at *(a)* its London office and *(b)* each regional office. [81012]

Mike Penning: Details of the staff the Highways Agency employs in its London and regional offices are provided in the following table.

Office location	*Number of staff*
Buckingham Palace Road, London	61
Woodlands, Bedford	260
Broadway, Birmingham	13
The Cube, Birmingham	551
Temple Quay House, Bristol	179
Federated House, Dorking	207
Ash House, Exeter	51
Lateral, Leeds	271
Piccadilly Gate, Manchester	210
Quinton National Traffic Operations Centre	52
South Mimms Regional Control Centre	129
East Midlands Regional Control Centre	49
Calder Park Regional Control Centre	64
Newton-Le-Willows Regional Control Centre	123
Godstone Regional Control Centre	66
Avonmouth Regional Control Centre	46
Quinton Regional Control Centre	76
Total	2,408

The Highways Agency also has an additional 1,129 members of staff based at 33 outstations across the country.

Highways Agency: Operating Costs

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of running each regional office of the Highways Agency in each of the last three years. [81011]

Mike Penning: The cost of running the Highways Agency regional offices is detailed in the following table.

			£
Office location	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Bedford	2,042,088	2,025,041	1,917,806
Birmingham	3,425,008	3,312,743	2,985,121
Bristol	1,343,560	1,438,649	1,390,186
Dorking	618,954	666,175	611,780
Exeter	371,695	331,691	502,794
Leeds	2,387,305	1,464,560	1,131,457
London	1,409,907	854,682	1,373,996
Manchester	1,827,906	1,460,400	2,175,382
East Midlands Regional Control Centre	726,901	736,539	824,526
South Mimms Regional Control Centre	765,984	640,010	622,735
Calder Park Regional Control Centre	1,092,515	1,115,413	1,130,116
Newton-Le-Willows Regional Control Centre	733,411	791,433	790,058
Godstone Regional Control Centre	692,836	675,834	674,420
Avonmouth Regional Control Centre	877,792	843,446	883,430
Quinton Regional Control Centre	1,109,733	1,158,224	1,103,857

Invalid Vehicles

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to amend the specification of class 1, 2 and 3 invalid vehicles as defined by the Road Traffic Act 1988; and if she will make a statement. [81005]

Norman Baker: There are no plans to amend regulations relating to class 1 'invalid carriages' (manual wheelchairs). As part of the Department for Transport's review of the use of powered mobility vehicles, I have asked my officials to undertake further work with transport operators, the mobility vehicles industry and user groups on a range of issues relating to the use of class 2 and class 3 'invalid carriages' (mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs).

I would also refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Bury South (Mr Lewis) of 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 249W, and my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 284W, for further details on my recent announcement.

Invalid Vehicles: Eyesight

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to bring forward proposals to impose a minimum standard eyesight requirement on users of powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters; and whether she has any plans to extend such a standard to cyclists. [81132]

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons her Department plans to implement a minimum eyesight requirement on users of powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters; and whether she has considered introducing such requirements for cyclists. [81211]

Norman Baker: As part of the Department for Transport's review of the use of mobility vehicles, I have asked my officials to undertake further work with transport operators, the mobility vehicles industry and user groups on a range of issues, including a possible minimum eyesight requirement for mobility vehicle users and incentives for them to meet these requirements. No final decision has been taken.

I would also refer the hon. Members to my answers to the hon. Member for Bury South (Mr Lewis) of 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 249W, and to my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 284W, and for further details on my recent announcement.

There are no plans to require cyclists to meet a minimum eyesight requirement.

Large Goods Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely cost of the trial of longer semi-trailer heavy goods vehicles in each year of its operation. [81193]

Mike Penning: The Department published a revised Impact Assessment on 11 October which covers the estimated impact of the 10-year trial. The central case estimates that the likely annual cost to Government will be around £40,000. This covers the issuing of Vehicle Special Orders and independent monitoring of the trial.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the trial of longer semi-trailers for heavy goods vehicles will record the *(a)* proportion of empty-running vehicles and *(b)* fuel consumption of vehicles in relation to their load weight. [81196]

Mike Penning: The Department will be discussing the details of the data recording requirements with the independent monitoring body. However, the requirements will include data on fuel consumption and empty running.

Large Goods Vehicles: Accidents

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how *(a)* accidents and *(b)* near-misses involving heavy goods vehicles taking part in the longer semi-trailer trial will be recorded. [81194]

Mike Penning: The Department will be discussing the detail of how these will be recorded with the independent monitoring body.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* road safety groups and *(b)* other organisations will be consulted on proposals to increase the national speed limit to 80mph on motorways. [80232]

Mike Penning: We plan to hold a full public consultation on the proposals to increase the national speed limit on motorways in England and Wales. We will invite responses from a broad range of stakeholders and individuals.

Piracy: Brazil

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the threat to UK shipping from piracy off the coast of Brazil. [79466]

Mike Penning: The Department is fully involved with discussions at the International Maritime Organisation on piracy issues and supports international counter-piracy activity. The International Maritime Bureau maintains figures on piracy attacks worldwide and, although I am aware of incidents off the coast of Brazil, this area has not been raised as a major concern for UK flagged vessels.

Public Transport: Olympic Games 2012

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps she plans to take to reduce disruption and delays to *(a)* bus and *(b)* train journeys in London during the London 2012 Olympic Games; [79729]

(2) what estimate she has made of potential delays to passenger journeys from Bromley into central London by *(a)* bus and *(b)* train during the London 2012 Olympic Games. [79734]

Mrs Villiers: Many of London's transport services are being delivered by Transport for London (TfL), as the integrated transport authority for London. Other transport operators, such as Network Rail, and Train Operating Companies also have a key role in ensuring that spectators can get to their events on time.

TfL is leading the work on demand reduction, initially through the travel advice to business programme which is engaging with businesses of all sizes to help them find ways of reducing their travel demand next summer. A further phase of this work, to engage with individual commuters and other travellers, is due to start in the new year.

The Department for Transport will be leading Government's interests in the delivery of an effective transport system, which is a key part of hosting a successful Olympic Games.

Railways: Franchises

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she received notification that the new operator of the Greater Anglia franchise planned to reduce the overall capacity on its services; when the decision was made to award the franchise to Abellio; what consultations were held with her Department during the franchise bidding process in respect of future capacity; and if she will take immediate steps to require Abellio to maintain as a minimum the current level of service provided by National Express East Anglia. [80166]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), was briefed on the proposition in line with the process for letting franchises. Following evaluation of bids and a robust analysis of competing bids, a final decision to award the franchise was taken by the Secretary of State on 19 October.

Abellio will provide the same level of service that will be operated by National Express East Anglia (NXEA) from December 2011. The introduction of the 168 train carriages across the Greater Anglia network during the NXEA franchise term has resulted in capacity being provided in excess of current demand. It is therefore possible to deliver the capacity requirements with a small reduction in carriages. This saves costs and is reflected in the premium to be paid to the Department. However, the fleet will be deployed more effectively which should enable crowding to be reduced on some services.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the unsuccessful bidders for the Greater Anglia franchise had offered to maintain as a minimum the current level of service provided by National Express East Anglia; and if she will make a statement. [80167]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Greater Anglia franchise invitation to tender required all bidders to continue to operate the current level of service being operated by National Express East Anglia until this franchise ends in July 2014.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will decline to sign the franchise agreement with Abellio for the Greater Anglia franchise pending clarification of reports that the company plans to reduce capacity on the Greater Anglia franchise. [80169]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), entered into the contract with Abellio on 1 November 2011. Abellio will provide the same level of service that will be operated by National Express East Anglia (NXEA) from December 2011. The introduction of the 188 train carriages across the Greater Anglia network during the NXEA franchise term has resulted in capacity being provided in excess of current demand. It is therefore possible to deliver the capacity requirements with a small reduction in carriages.

I would draw the hon. Gentleman's attention to the service improvements that Abellio will be delivering during its franchise, which are detailed in the press release I made on 20 October.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* consultants on work on the (i) Northern rail, (ii) Southern rail, (iii) London Midland rail, (iv) South West rail and (v) East Midlands franchise in the last 12 months. [81173]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested is as follows:

(a) In the last 12 months the Department has spent the following amounts on solicitors (external) in connection with the franchises shown in the following table:

	Amount
(i) Northern Rail	0
(ii) Southern	0
(iii) London Midland	0
(iv) South West Trains	0
(v) East Midlands	0

The Department, in collaboration with Treasury Solicitors, has incurred legal expenses relating to South West Trains franchise. Estimate of potential charge to the Department is circa £75,000.

(b) In the last 12 months the Department has spent the following amounts on consultants in connection with the franchises shown in the following table:

	Amount
(i) Northern Rail	0
(ii) Southern	0
(iii) London Midland	0
(iv) South West Trains	0
(v) East Midlands	0

Road Traffic: Marble Arch

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* officials in her Department have had on road traffic at the Marble Arch interchange with (i) representatives of foreign Governments and (ii) Westminster city council; and if she will make a statement. [80172]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* With the exception of 'trunk roads'; management of the road network in London has been devolved. Roads in London are therefore the responsibility of the local highway authority, either Transport for London or the relevant London borough.

In this instance, the Marble Arch interchange falls under the remit of Transport for London.

Roads

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has spent on *(a)* maintenance of the existing road network, *(b)* administrative and staff costs and *(c)* new road projects in the last three years. [81037]

Mike Penning: Information on the Highways Agency's expenditure on maintenance of the existing road network, administration and staff costs, and new road projects is included in the following table.

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
(a) maintenance of the existing road network	914	1,307	772
(b) administrative and staff costs	88	82	79
(c) new road projects in the last three years	759	715	982

Rolling Stock: Manufacturing Industries

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 1195W, on Crossrail hire: rolling stock, whether the discussions referred to in the answer included consideration of the desirability of supporting the UK's train manufacturing industry. [78563]

Mrs Villiers: Discussions on Crossrail rolling stock have included consideration that the publication of Invitation to Negotiate documentation for the Crossrail rolling stock and depot procurement be deferred, as a consequence of revisions to the project's approach to commissioning of the new trains. It is recognised by all parties that this deferral will also allow any relevant conclusions of the Government's review of public procurement to be taken into account in the tender process. As required by EU procurement rules, all bids will be judged on a fair and level playing field with all bidders treated equally.

The Government's review of public procurement—part of the Government's growth review—is examining whether the UK is making best use of the application of EU procurement rules. The review will also consider the degree to which the Government can set out requirements and evaluation criteria with a sharper focus on the UK's strategic interest and how the Government can support businesses and ensure that when they compete for work they are doing it on an equal footing with their overseas competitors.

Speed Limits

Steve Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* advisory guidance her Department issues to local authorities on the creation of new 30 mph speed limits. [79837]

Mike Penning: Local authorities are provided with advisory departmental guidance on setting local speed limits (DFT Circular 01/2006), which was published on 8 August 2006. The Strategic Road Safety Framework of May 2011 indicated that the Department will revise and reissue this guidance with the aim of increasing flexibility for local authorities. Alongside the revised guide there will be an economic tool for local authorities to assess the full costs and benefits of any changes to speed limits.

Local authorities have a duty under section 85 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to erect and maintain speed limit signs that are either prescribed in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD) or authorised by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), on roads that they are responsible for. The Department is responsible for TSRGD and has published guidance on the use of speed signs in Chapter 3 of the Traffic Signs Manual.

These documents can be viewed on the Department's website but it is for traffic authorities to decide how to carry out their statutory duty.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many letters she has received on funding for civil society organisations within her Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if she will make a statement. [73985]

Norman Baker: I regret that the information is not held in the format requested. Identification of the number of letters received regarding funding for civil sector organisations would incur disproportionate costs.

Transport: Infrastructure

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to monitor transport infrastructure needs in relation to trends in the population to 2050 projected by the Office for National Statistics. [79944]

Mike Penning: The Department identifies potential needs for transport infrastructure using a wide range of evidence sources. This includes transport models which combine our statistics on travel behaviour with long-term projections, including population from the Office for National Statistics, to forecast travel demand.

The Department also collects and publishes a range of official statistics that track changes in people's travel behaviour and their use of transport infrastructure. Most of these statistics are summarised in "Transport Statistics, Great Britain", the Department's main annual statistical compendium publication.

National Policy Statements (NPS) set out the Government's assessment of the need for different types of infrastructure, including in relation to trends in population. The Department intends shortly to designate an NPS for ports and to launch a consultation on a draft NPS for national road and rail networks.

The Department is also in the process of developing a strategy for a sustainable future for aviation, providing a framework which supports economic growth and addresses aviation's environmental impacts.

Travel: Concessions

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether provision is in place to provide access to concessionary travel schemes for people who are unable to use scheduled public bus services as a result of disability. [81174]

Norman Baker: Some community transport services provided under section 22 permits are eligible local bus services for the purposes of statutory concessionary travel. Local authorities are also able to offer travel concessions on any form of community transport on a discretionary basis.

JUSTICE

Bail and Accommodation Support Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the operation of the joint working protocol on bail and accommodation support services. [80818]

Mr Blunt: Operational guidance on the bail accommodation and support service (BASS) is provided in Prison Service Instruction 34/2010 and Probation Instruction 09/2010 effective from the start of the contract with Stonham on 18 June 2010. Further guidance has not been issued.

I have received no representations.

Food Procurement

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on food procurement in each year from 1997 to 2011. [80318]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice was formed in 2007; hence details of expenditure on food from 1997 are not available. Information is provided in the following table for each full year to date. From 2010, the Department has restricted catering for internal and external meetings, including in our arm's length bodies.

The following restrictions apply to all departmental staff:

No lunches, tea or coffees can be ordered for any internal meeting.

For external meetings, catering procurement requires director-level sign-off and are only allowed in exceptional circumstances.

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Ministry of Justice HQ[1]	0.921	0.677	0.420
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service[2]	6.278	5.995	5.376
National Offender Management Service[3]	63.110	60.344	60.957
Office for the Public Guardian[4]	0.013	0.005	0.002

[1] MOJ HQ: Catering costs for external meetings (i.e. including visitors/attendees external to the organisation) and staff training courses.

[2] HMCTS: In addition to catering costs for external meetings and staff training courses, the figures also include the cost of catering for judiciary and jurors.

[3] NOMS: The cost of food is in respect of public sector prisons, and almost entirely relates to the cost of providing food to the prison population in England and Wales. It does not include any associated costs such as contracted catering services, staff and prisoner labour and training costs, the purchase of kitchen and servery facilities, utilities and other overheads. These figures also include a minor element for the cost of external meetings and staff training courses.

[4] OPG: Figures relate to catering costs ordered directly by OPG, for external meetings and staff training courses. Other catering costs are absorbed by the MOJ HQ.

Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people his Department employs who are aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years. [80828]

Mr Blunt: On 30 June 2011, the latest date of headcount data published by the Office for National Statistics, the Ministry of Justice employed *(a)* 14,078 staff aged over 55 and *(b)* 1,083 staff aged over 65 years of age.

This includes paid staff in MOJ headquarters, the National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian.

Secondary Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78113]

Mr Djanogly: The number of Ministry of Justice statutory instruments issued in each year since 2007 (when the Ministry was created) is shown in the following table.

	Number of statutory instruments issued
2007	86
2008	146
2009	154
2010	103
2011 (to date)	86

The number of statutory instruments prepared by the Ministry's predecessor Departments i.e. the Department for Constitutional Affairs (created in 2003) and before then the Lord Chancellor's Department, and issued in each of the years 1990, 1995 and 1999 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

	Number of statutory instruments prepared
1990	53
1995	79
1999	118
2000	123
2001	161
2002	75
2003	132
2004	136
2005	154
2006	96
2007	48

The figures listed in the above table include ministerial orders, Orders in Council and other types of secondary legislation prepared by the Ministry of Justice, Department for Constitutional Affairs or Lord Chancellor's Department that were issued as statutory instruments.

Information regarding the number of ministerial orders and other pieces of secondary legislation prepared by the Ministry of Justice or its predecessor Departments that were not issued as statutory instruments is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Duchy of Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on whether under fee simple provisions the freehold of property in the county of Cornwall would revert to *(a)* the Crown and *(b)* the Duchy of Cornwall. [80490]

Mr Djanogly: Reverter may occur in the context of escheat or the operation of a right of reverter. When a freehold estate determines (for example by disclaimer) the land escheats to the Crown or, if situated within the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall, to the relevant Duchy. Where land is owned subject to an express or implied right of reverter the benefit of the right will vest in the relevant owner.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on whether freehold property in the county of Cornwall would, in this sense, revert to the Crown or the Duchy of Cornwall.

Harassment: Offenders

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to require individuals convicted under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 to participate in mental health treatment in England and Wales. [79963]

Mr Blunt: There are no plans to specifically require individuals convicted under the Protection from Harassment Act to undergo mental health treatment. However, the courts have comprehensive powers under the Mental Health Act 1983 to assess any mentally disordered defendants during the trial process. This includes powers to divert offenders out of the criminal justice system, ordering their admission to a secure hospital by way of a hospital order.

For those offenders who meet the threshold of a community order, courts may make use of a Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR) as part of a community order to help treat mental health problems. In all cases, an MHTR can only be issued if the offender has been assessed by a senior medical practitioner and they have expressed their willingness to comply.

We are currently taking provisions through the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill to remove the reliance upon the assessment of a senior medical practitioner to allow a wider range of medical practitioners to carry out the initial assessment, which would help reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and delays in the court process.

We are also working with the Department of Health and the Home Office to deliver the Government's commitment to roll out liaison and diversion services that identify mental health problems, and wider health needs, in police custody suites and at courts by 2014.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether court reports by probation staff on people convicted under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 include social histories. [79964]

Mr Blunt: Pre-sentence court reports are prepared by probation staff where additional information about the offender's circumstances and suitability for a sentence is required. Pre-sentence court reports contain information on the current offence, relevant details of the offender's circumstances and include an assessment of risk posed by the offender, in order to assist the court to decide on the most appropriate sentence.

Harassment: Victim Support Schemes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many victims of stalking or harassment were referred to victim liaison units in probation trusts in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [79965]

Mr Blunt: The statutory Victim Contact Scheme is operated by probation trusts for the victims of qualifying serious sexual and violent offences, as defined by schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, as amended, where the offender is sentenced to 12 months or more imprisonment, or for victims of certain mentally disordered offenders.

An offender who has been stalking or harassing a victim may have been convicted under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. Offences under section 4 of that Act (putting a person under fear of violence) are qualifying offences for the purposes of the Victim Contact Scheme. But some offenders will have been convicted of other violent or sexual offences as the primary offence. Data are not held centrally on the number of referrals by offence type to victim liaison units in probation trusts. Probation trusts would need to examine individual case files to determine whether the nature of the offence related to stalking or harassment, which would in turn incur disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Construction

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails he has received on super prisons in the last 12 months; [80833]

(2) what recent discussions he has on the building of *(a)* new and *(b)* super prisons; and if he will make a statement; [80834]

(3) what recent discussions he has had on increasing the number of prison spaces; and if he will make a statement; [80841]

(4) how many flags his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains; and at what cost to the public purse. [80851]

Mr Blunt: 'Super prison' is not a term used by the Ministry of Justice for any of its prisons. However, three letters have been received on large prisons in the last 12 months.

The prison capacity programme that delivered its first places in 2007 is nearing completion. Two new prisons will be delivered in 2012 in London and Staffordshire.

Long-term decisions on the prison capacity programme will be taken in the light of future policy developments, but there are no current plans to build further new prisons in England and Wales. A number of contingency plans have been developed to manage fluctuations in the prison population. These contingencies include opening new accommodation early and using extra places in the public and private estate through crowding.

Obtaining information on how many flags the Department owns and maintains could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Remand in Custody

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were remanded in custody in each of the last five years. [80988]

Mr Blunt: The total number of defendants remanded in custody at all courts, England and Wales, 2006-10 can be viewed in the following table. This includes those remanded in custody at any stage of proceedings who may have been granted bail at another stage of proceedings.

Defendants remanded in custody during proceedings at magistrates courts[1] and remanded in custody at the Crown court, 2006-10[2]

Thousand

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Remanded in custody[3]	74.0	71.6	77.5	71.5	69.4

[1] Data presented in this table exclude those who failed to appear and committals for trial or sentence to the Crown court.

[2] Magistrates courts data for 2010 are estimated.

[3] Includes those remanded for part of the time in custody and part on bail.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Social Security Benefits: Tribunals

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average cost per hour of attendance at a benefits appeal tribunal of *(a)* the chair of the tribunal, *(b)* a medically qualified member and *(c)* an occupational therapy representative. [80692]

Mr Djanogly: The Social Security and Child Support Tribunal employs both salaried and fee-paid judges. Social Security and Child Support Tribunal fee-paid members are paid per session, and each session lasts 3.5 hours. The current session fees are:

(a) Tribunal Judge (Chair)—£218;

(b) Medically Qualified Member—£155 (rising to £185.50 after the member has sat for 20 sessions in the financial year);

(c) The Tribunal does not employ occupational therapy representatives but for certain disability living allowance appeals the panel may include a member with experience of a particular disability who will be paid £96 per session.

Full details of salaried judges' remuneration can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicial-fees-salaries.htm

The composition of Social Security and Child Support Tribunal panels varies according to the type of case being heard and a three member panel is not required for all hearings. The average cost to the Tribunals Service of a completed appeal in the First-tier Tribunal-Social Security and Child Support was £239 in 2010-11.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average waiting time is for appeals to the Tribunal Service for cases relating to *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* employment and support allowance and *(c)* disability living allowance. [80736]

Mr Djanogly: Appeals against decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions on an individual's entitlement to incapacity benefit, employment and support allowance and disability living allowance are heard by the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support).

The average length of time taken for these benefit appeal types from receipt by the Tribunal to clearance or disposal in September 2011 (the latest period for which statistics have been published) is as follows:

	Weeks
Incapacity Benefit	32.6
Employment and Support Allowance	24.2
Disability Living Allowance	28.2

These figures include cases that were decided by a tribunal hearing and those that were disposed of by other means (such as being withdrawn, superseded or struck out).

Stalking: Harassment

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether victim personal statements are routinely made available to probation staff completing court reports where the alleged perpetrator was involved in stalking or harassment related behaviour. [72996]

Mr Blunt: Probation staff preparing pre-sentence reports for courts will draw on all available sources of information to complete a full assessment of the offence and offending behaviour. An important element of the assessment is the impact and consequences of the offence(s) upon the victim, one source for which may be the victim personal statement. It is not possible to confirm that such statements are routinely available to probation staff as it is for the victim to decide whether to provide a victim personal statement.

Terrorism: Compensation

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his estimate is of the number of people likely to be beneficiaries at any level under a retrospective compensation scheme for victims of terrorism abroad; [81131]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of retrospective compensation for victims of terrorism abroad at levels comparable to payments made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. [81237]

Mr Blunt: The issue of compensation for victims of terrorism overseas is being considered alongside the Government's review of victims' services and compensation. We intend to make an announcement before Christmas.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates he has met representatives of *(a)* Bell Pottinger Group and *(b)* its subsidiaries; and what was discussed. [81263]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 342-3W.

Carbon Sequestration

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to identify alternative carbon capture and storage projects since the withdrawal of the Longannet project. [79939]

Charles Hendry: The Government remain firmly committed to carbon capture and storage (CCS) and there are a number of promising projects proposed in the UK, including in Scotland. We will launch a streamlined selection process for future CCS projects as soon as possible and my Department will expand on our plans later this year. I can confirm that the £1 billion remains available for this.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on establishing carbon capture and storage demonstration projects for combined cycle gas turbine power stations. [78987]

Charles Hendry: The Government remain firmly committed to carbon capture and storage (CCS) and there are a number of promising projects proposed in the UK, including in Scotland. We will launch a streamlined selection process for future CCS projects, including combined cycle gas turbine projects, as soon as possible and my Department will expand on our plans later this year. I can confirm that the £1 billion remains available for this.

Carbon Sequestration: Longannet

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the future of carbon capture and storage since the withdrawal of the Longannet project. [79938]

Charles Hendry: Ministers meet their counterparts in the devolved Administrations regularly to discuss a range of energy and climate change issues. In addition, my officials hold regular detailed discussions with their counterparts on specific issues relating to the development of carbon capture and storage. A representative from the Scottish Government attended the CCS Development Forum on 2 November 2011 to set out their continuing commitment to new CCS projects.

Freedom of Information Requests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78882]

Gregory Barker: This information is published on the MOJ website, in quarterly reports. DECC do not hold the information broken down by month as requested. For statistics from March 2010 to June 2011, the information can be found on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

We are not able to provide data after June 2011 as the official statistics for this period have not yet been published by MoJ. In addition, statistics on time taken to respond to requests over 20 working days will be published in their annual report.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78883]

Gregory Barker: This information is published on the Ministry of Justice website, in quarterly reports. DECC do not hold the information broken down by month. For statistics from January 2010 to June 2011, the information can be found on the MoJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

We are not able to provide data after June 2011 as the official statistics for this period have not yet been published by MoJ.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Minister in his Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78884]

Gregory Barker: It is DECC policy that departmental officials, in consultation with DECC lawyers where appropriate, would normally determine whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act.

However, the exemption under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) can only apply if it is the reasonable opinion of a qualified person (QP) that the exemption applies. In relation to information held by Government, the qualified person must be a Minister or, if held by a non-ministerial department, the persons in charge of that department (for example, the chief executive).

In DECC, all such decisions are referred to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), who will consult with the Minister responsible for the subject matter if he deems this necessary. Should the Secretary of State not be available within the timescales, this would be referred to the duty Minister.

Departmental Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80712]

Gregory Barker: The information requested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what policies are covered by the control framework for his Department's levy-funded spending. [80440]

Gregory Barker: The control framework for DECC levy-funded spending covers the renewables obligation, feed-in tariffs and Warm Home discount.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the spending cap is for each policy covered by the control framework for his Department's levy-funded spending. [80441]

Gregory Barker: The spending caps for the policies covered by the levies control framework are published on the DECC website and summarised in the following table:

£ million

	Policy		
	Renewables obligation	*Feed-in tariffs*	*Warm home discount*
2011-12	1,764	80	250
2012-13	2,191	161	275
2013-14	2,615	269	300
2014-15	3,203	357	310

Capabilities Programme

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many full-time equivalent staff work on the energy workstream of the Capabilities programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters. [79501]

Charles Hendry: Many of the duties and functions of the Energy Resilience Team in the Energy Markets and Infrastructure Group contributes to the energy workstream of the Capabilities programme.

However there are no full-time equivalents who work solely and specifically on the energy workstream.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the lead Minister in his Department is for the energy workstream of the Capabilities programme. [79502]

Charles Hendry: I am the responsible Minister, as the energy workstream of the Capabilities programme falls within my responsibilities for Energy Resilience.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget was for the energy workstream of the Capabilities Programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79503]

Charles Hendry: Work on the energy workstream of the Capabilities programme has been carried out within budgetary provision for the Energy Resilience Team part of the Energy Markets and Infrastructure Group. The workstream does not have a specific budgetary allocation.

Prior to the creation of DECC, the work was funded by the budget for the equivalent teams in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and, before that, the Department of Trade and Industry.

Energy: Infrastructure

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the renewal of energy infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [80569]

Charles Hendry: Over the next decade, our latest estimate is that we will lose around a fifth (around 20 GW) of our existing generation capacity as old or more polluting plant close. Up to £110 billion investment in electricity generation and transmission is likely to be required by 2020, more than double the current rate of investment.

The Government set out their policy for the development of nationally significant energy infrastructure in the National Policy Statements for Energy, which were designated by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), on 19 July 2011. The Electricity Market Reform White Paper "Planning our electric future" described the package of reforms designed to deliver the Government's commitment to transform the UK's electricity market to ensure that our future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable. Copies are available in the House Library.

Energy: Mobile Homes

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to assist people living in mobile homes with their fuel bills; and whether he has considered extending the warm homes discount scheme to them. [81332]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to helping people, especially low income vulnerable households, to heat their homes more affordably.

Park home occupiers, eligible for Warm Front assistance, can benefit from draught proofing and the installation or repair of heating systems. The measures will help them heat their homes more efficiently and where possible this may also lead to lower fuel bills. The winter fuel payments and cold weather payments provide additional assistance towards heating bills during the winter months.

The consultation for the proposed Warm Home Discount Scheme did consider the issue of whether to extend eligibility to energy suppliers' customers who do not pay their electricity bill directly—for example, those who pay it through their rent on a caravan park or park home.

However, due to the administrative complexity of identifying and verifying these individual circumstances, ensuring the benefit of the rebate was made available to the customer and identifying a means of making a payment, it was decided not to include these individuals in the scheme.

Energy: Prices

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the effect on the average household's gas and electricity bills in 2020 of his Department's policy decisions since May 2010. [79614]

Charles Hendry: In July 2010, DECC published analysis on the estimated impact of energy and climate change policies on the average household and medium-sized business user's energy bill, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/media/
viewfile.ashx?filetype=4&filepath=What%we%20do/
UK%20energy%20supply/236-impacts-energy-climate-
change-policies.pdf&minwidth-true

Since July 2010, the coalition Government has made a number of policy announcements which mean that the impact of energy and climate change policies on the average household and medium-sized business user's energy bill is expected to be lower. These announcements include proposals on electricity market reform and the Green Deal, the introduction of the carbon price floor, consultations on new cost-effective levels of support for large-scale renewable electricity and lower tariffs and energy efficiency eligibility requirement for solar PV under the feed-in tariff scheme, the decisions to fund the renewable heat incentive from general taxation rather than through a levy on fossil fuel suppliers and the decision to consider several alternative funding options for the Government's carbon capture and storage commitments rather than through their own levy.

Updated energy bill estimates accounting for all these announcements and proposed changes will be published alongside the forthcoming Annual Energy Statement later this year.

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate how much *(a)* an average household and *(b)* all consumers will save in the cost of energy bills as a result of his policy decisions on (i) feed-in tariffs for large-scale solar installations, (ii) feed-in tariffs for small-scale solar installations, (iii) the renewable heat incentive, (iv) carbon capture and storage and (v) other energy and climate change policies up to 2020. [79615]

Charles Hendry: On 31 October 2011, DECC published a consultation on the Government's proposals for lower tariffs and energy efficiency eligibility requirements for solar PV under the feed-in tariff scheme. The accompanying impact assessment, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

presents the estimated impact of these proposals on all consumers and the average household electricity bill to 2020.

In July 2010, DECC published analysis on the estimated impact of energy and climate change policies on the average household and medium-sized business user's energy bill, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/media/
viewfile.ashx?filetype=4&filepath=What%20we%20do/
UK%20energy%20supply/236-impacts-energy-climate-
change-policies.pdf&minwidth=true

Since July 2010, the coalition Government has made a number of policy announcements which mean that the impact of energy and climate change policies on the average household and medium-sized business user's energy bill is expected to be lower. These announcements include proposals on electricity market reform and the Green Deal, the introduction of the carbon price floor, consultations on new cost-effective levels of support for large-scale renewable electricity and lower tariffs and energy efficiency eligibility requirement for solar PV under the feed-in tariff scheme, the decisions to fund the renewable heat incentive from general taxation rather than through a levy on fossil fuel suppliers and the decision to consider several alternative funding options for the Government's carbon capture and storage commitments rather than through their own levy.

Updated energy bill estimates accounting for all these announcements and proposed changes will be published alongside the forthcoming Annual Energy Statement later this year.

European Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many ministerial-level meetings have been held in his Department during the Government's examination of the balance of existing European Union competences. [80244]

Charles Hendry: There have been no such ministerial level meetings within the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many members of staff in his Department are working on the Government's examination of the balance of existing European Union competences. [80245]

Gregory Barker: The examination of these issues draws on existing resources.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of households were living in fuel poverty in *(a)* St Helens South and Whiston constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [81333]

Gregory Barker: The sub-regional data requested are available for 2006 and 2008 and are shown in the following table alongside the annually published national data. Figures in brackets show the proportion of all households in that area that were fuel poor.

	St Helens South and Whiston		*Merseyside*		*England*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2009	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	3,964,000	18
2008	7,400	18	109,000	19	3,335,000	16
2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,819,000	13
2006	[2]5,100	[2]14	[3]84,800	[3]14	2,432,000	12
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,529,000	7

n/a = Not available

[1] Available 24 November 2011

[2] Data for St Helens South constituency

[3] Combined Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and the Wirral

Gas Fired Power Stations

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many gas-fired combined-cycle gas turbine plants have been approved by his Department since May 2010; and what the *(a)* name and *(b)* megawatt capacity of each such plant is. [78695]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has granted consent to six combined cycle gas turbines (CCGT) applications since May 2010.

(1) Spalding, Lincolnshire—900 MW

(2) Damhead Creek II, Isle of Grain—1000 MW

(3) Abernedd, Baglan Bay—870 MW

(4) Wellington C, Derbyshire—2000 MW

(5) Manorway, Stanford-le-Hope—900 MW

(6) Thorpe Marsh, Doncaster—1500 MW.

Green Deal Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish the National Occupational Standards for Green Deal assessors. [80976]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 14 November 2011]*: We expect to publish the "National Occupational Standards for Green Deal assessors" by the end of the year.

Liquefied Gas

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to regulate the supply of liquid gas; and if he will make a statement. [80951]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 370W, to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane).

The Office of Fair Trading noted in its report of the Off-Grid Energy Market study, that there has been a generally positive initial impact of the Competition Commission orders from 2009. The orders make it easier for consumers of domestic bulk liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to switch supplier. The OFT will continue to monitor this area and is also engaging with suppliers on consumer protection issues.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his department has made of the risks posed by construction on new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [81376]

Charles Hendry: To provide an assessment of the risks posed by construction of new nuclear power stations my Department commissioned "Engineering the Future to produce the Nuclear Lessons Learned" report which is available at:

http://www.raeng.org.uk/news/publications/list/reports/Nuclear_Lessons_Learned_Oct10.pdf

We will continue to work closely with developers to satisfy ourselves they have processes in place to capture and transfer knowledge gained from projects to benefit the UK new build programme.

Nuclear Power Stations: Hinkley Point

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable has been set for the construction stages of a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point; and what recent assessment he has made of progress against the timetable. [81375]

Charles Hendry: In October 2011 the Department of Energy and Climate Change published a refreshed version of the Department's indicative timeline for the first nuclear new build in the UK, including the actions the Government are taking. It indicates a development consent decision in early 2013 and (should such a decision be favourable) commissioning and operation from 2018. It is available here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/nuclear/new/new.aspx

However, new nuclear power stations will be constructed by the private sector who will set their construction timetables. EDF Energy's application for development consent contains an indicative construction timetable to be used for planning assessment purposes. The application was submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) by EDF on 31 October 2011 and the IPC has until 29 November 2011 to decide whether it will accept the application. Once the IPC has decided, the application including the indicative construction timetable will be published and will be available at:

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/projects/south-west/hinkley-point-c-new-nuclear-power-station/

Radioactive Waste: Sweden

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contractual commitments exist for the repatriation to the UK of radioactive contamination removed from the contaminated metals sent by Studsvik UK Ltd at Lillyall, Cumbria to Studsvik Sweden for decontamination since September 2009; and whether permission was required from the Environment Agency for such shipments. [80876]

Charles Hendry: All shipments of radioactive waste consigned from the UK to Sweden, since September 2009, are subject to a binding 'Waste Return Guarantee' on the part of Studsvik UK Ltd; under the Transfrontier Shipment of Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Regulations 2008.

Permission for Studsvik UK Ltd in Cumbria to send radioactive waste to Studsvik Sweden for decontamination was granted by the Environment Agency, as the competent authority for transfrontier waste shipments, in July 2009, under a registration which remains effective through to 7 July 2012.

Under the covering letter of Studsvik's application to the Environment Agency a guarantee is provided to return the waste residues to the UK.

Renewable Energy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* turnover, *(b)* level of employment and *(c)* level of exports attributable to the renewable energy sector in each year to 2020. [80021]

Charles Hendry: Renewable energy development offers huge potential for UK economic growth. We estimate that around £100 billion of investment will be needed over this decade to meet the UK's renewables ambitions alone for 2020. The UK Renewable Energy Roadmap[1] published in July sets out the measures the Government are taking to maximise the opportunities for British companies and new investment in the renewable energy sector. The Government are committed to ensuring that cost-effective generation comes forward so that costs to energy consumers are minimised.

We do not break down the growth potential into the headings and timings the hon. Member has listed. But he will be interested to know that in the first half of this financial year alone investments valued up to £1.7 billion have been announced in the UK renewables sector, and the manufacturing and other industries that supply it, creating nearly 10,000 temporary and permanent jobs if all of these plans are delivered. This is not a definitive list of the renewables market activity for this period, but indicates the continuing realisation of growth and investment opportunities in the sector.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/re_roadmap/re_roadmap.aspx

Renewable Energy: Employment

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of full-time equivalent jobs in the *(a)* solar photovoltaic, *(b)* wind and *(c)* wave and tidal industries in (i) 2009 and (ii) November 2011. [80321]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that, based on the number of *(a)* solar photovoltaic (PV) installations by the end of October 2011, around 8,000 to 14,000 gross full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs have been supported by solar PV since the introduction of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. However, the total number of people doing some form of work related to solar PV is likely to be higher than this range because those who are involved in solar PV installations are also likely to undertake other tasks other than solely installing solar PV. We do not have similar estimates for solar PV in 2009.

Estimates by K-Matrix (2011) for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills[1] show around 550 jobs in wave and tidal technologies and around 90,000 in wind energy. These estimates include the supply chain. K-Matrix's bottom-up methodology reveals more low carbon and environmental activity than standard industrial classification coding, and other previous estimates. It therefore risks double counting companies who produce goods or services for more than one environmental market. K-Matrix compare their numbers to validated and verified data sources to mitigate this risk.

In addition, we are aware of a number of assessments by external bodies on the future employment potential of the renewable energy sector, including:

Onshore wind

RenewableUK estimates in 'Working for a Green Britain Vol 2: Future employment and skills in the UK wind and marine industries' that under a medium scenario, there could be around 10,300 direct and 6,100 indirect jobs in the onshore wind sector in 2021.

Offshore wind

The Carbon Trust estimates that the offshore wind sector could employ up to 66,000 people in the UK by 2020 with a possibility of up to 230,000 by 2050.

Wave and tidal technologies

The Carbon Trust's 'Focus For Success' report estimates that the wave sector alone could create around 16,000 direct jobs by 2040, with 25% supporting UK exports.

Given these and other independent reports, I have no plans to commission further evidence but will keep this under review. The Government fully recognise the employment opportunities that the growth of renewable energy can create.

[1] K Matrix, 2011, 'Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Report 2009/10', available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/business-sectors/low-carbon-business-opportunities/market-intelligence/market-data

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the statement by the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 609, (1) if he will make it his policy to make an immediate exemption, lasting until April 2012, for Industrial and Provident Societies and Community Benefit Societies from the changes proposed to the feed-in tariff announced in the written statement of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 26WS; [79195]

(2) if his Department will assess how community-based solar photovoltaic schemes can be supported by the Government in addition to the provision of a special feed-in tariff; and if he will make a statement; [79196]

(3) if he will make it his policy to introduce a special feed-in tariff for community-based solar photovoltaic schemes that is higher than standard feed-in tariff rates; and if he will make a statement. [79197]

Charles Hendry: The Government's current consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) is seeking views on whether more could be done to enable genuine community projects to achieve real benefits from feed-in tariffs and whether, for example, a definition of community scheme is required and, if so, how this should be defined. We will provide more detail on FITs for community-based schemes as part of a second consultation on the comprehensive review which we plan to publish at the end of the year.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Climate Change of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 609, on feed-in-tariffs, when he *(a)* last met and *(b)* next plans to meet the Co-operative Group to discuss feed-in-tariffs. [79851]

Charles Hendry: Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

During the development of our proposals for the Feed-in Tariff Comprehensive Review Phase I Consultation, I and other Ministers met a number of representatives of the solar power industry.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* solar photovoltaic installations, *(b)* wind turbines, *(c)* hydroelectricity, *(d)* anaerobic digesters and *(e)* micro combined heat and power systems have been installed in the UK under the feed-in tariff scheme. [79986]

Gregory Barker: The Ofgem Central FITs Register shows the following number of installations registered for FITs as at 8 November 2011:

Installations

Technology	*Number*
Solar photovoltaic	96,178
Wind	1,927
Hydroelectricity	242
Anaerobic digestion	13
Micro CHP	280

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is for the feed-in-tariff scheme for each year from 2010 to 2015. [81189]

Gregory Barker: The spending envelope for the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme over the current spending review period is set out in the following table (with annual allocations in nominal prices). It is important to note that the figure for each year is effectively cumulative, because it must cover the costs of paying for projects accredited in previous years of the scheme as well as new projects that year. The figure for 2014-15 reflects the agreement made through last year's spending review that savings of 10% would be found in that year.

FITs	*£ million*
2011-12	80
2012-13	161
2013-14	269
2014-15	357

This information is published on our website in a question and answer document which details the spending envelope for all the DECC levies-funded policies and can be viewed at:

www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/funding-support/fuel-poverty/3290-control-fwork-decc-levyfunded-spending.pdf

Solar Power

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Staffordshire's electricity needs could be met by solar photovoltaics. [80116]

Gregory Barker: The 2050 Calculator developed by the Department suggests that solar PV could contribute up to 127 TWh of electricity a year by 2030 and 140 TWh by 2050. This would be an extremely ambitious level of deployment without precedent anywhere else in the world, equivalent to covering 1.3% of the UK in solar panels by 2050—approximately the same area as that currently covered by buildings. Without accompanying electricity storage infrastructure, it could also only generate electricity during daylight hours.

Were the electricity generation of 2010 (381 TWh)[1] to be maintained out to 2050, this level of deployment would meet up to 37% of total electricity daytime demand. However, the 2050 Pathways Analysis[2] published by the Department earlier this year suggests that electricity demand is likely to increase in the future, so this maximum potential figure is likely to be far lower in reality.

[1] MMG, DUKES 2011-Chapter 5, 2011

[2] HMG, 2050 Pathways Analysis: the Government's Response to the Call for Evidence—Part I, 2011

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the level of growth in the solar industry in *(a)* the last 15 years and *(b)* since the introduction of feed-in-tariffs. [79097]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not keep long-term records of employment levels in the solar PV sector.

We estimate that, based on the number of solar photovoltaic installations by the end of October 2011, around 8,000 to 14,000 gross full-time equivalent jobs have been supported by solar PV since the introduction of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. The total number of people doing some solar PV work is likely to be higher than this range because those who are involved in solar PV installations are also likely to undertake other tasks linked to their employment.

An impact assessment has been published to support the consultation on FITs for solar PV. This includes an assessment of the economic impacts of the consultation proposals, including the impact on jobs. The impact assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of average installation times for those ordering solar photovoltaic installations *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each nation and region. [79892]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 10 November 2011]*: The Department does not hold formal data on solar photovoltaic installation times, as installations are commercial arrangements between a customer and an installer. Installation times will vary between sites, depending on a number of factors including the nature of installation and the company carrying it out. Typical installation times for domestic systems (up to 4 kW) are around two to three days, with larger installations taking longer.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effect on employment of a reduction in the feed-in tariff for solar photovoltaic installations before 31 March 2012. [79992]

Charles Hendry: An impact assessment has been published to support the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV). This includes an assessment of the economic impacts of the consultation proposals, including the impact on jobs. The impact assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect the changes in subsidy under the feed-in tariff scheme will have on future investment in the solar industry. [80624]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert) on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 595W.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of solar panels installed on domestic houses which were manufactured in *(a)* China and *(b)* the UK in each of the last three years. [81065]

Gregory Barker: This information is not held by the Department.

Tidal Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to support the DeltaStream tidal demonstration project. [78932]

Gregory Barker: The Government have recently increased their support to the wave and tidal energy sector: first through this Department's investment of up to £20 million for the demonstration of arrays of wave and tidal devices, subject to a value for money assessment; and most recently through the renewables obligation consultation, which proposes increasing the revenue support for wave and tidal technologies to 5 ROCs/MWh (renewable obligation certificates per megawatt hour). This proposed level of support will help stimulate further investment into the marine energy sector.

Earlier this year, I established a new UK Marine Energy programme, which allows us to work with the sector to remove barriers to development and to bring forward a programme of policies across Government, led by DECC, to enable the sector to move to commercial deployment over the coming five years.

I want to raise the ambition for marine energy in the UK and hope that these measures will catalyse the industry, including the DeltaStream tidal demonstration project.

Warm Front Scheme: St Helens

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in St Helens South and Whiston constituency have received assistance under the Warm Front scheme in each of the last five years; and what the average level of grant provided under the scheme was in each such year. [80955]

Gregory Barker: The following table indicates the number of households assisted by Warm Front and the average level of grant provided under the scheme in St Helens South and Whiston[1] and the average spend nationally in each of the last six years;

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total spend (£)	564,915.02	1,023,489.50	1,416,534.04	1,206,752.76	791,041.64	1,194,649.75
Households assisted	560	914	1,292	763	858	381
Average level of assistance (£)	1,008.78	1,119.79	1,096.39	1,581.59	921.96	3,135.56
Average level of assistance in England (£)	1,081.43	1,245.00	1,313.92	1,701.24	1,784.42	2,896.85

[1] St Helens South and Whiston is a new parliamentary constituency. The information prior to 2010-11 relates to the former constituency of St Helens South.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Tees Valley

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the change in the number of people undertaking apprenticeships in *(a)* Redcar constituency and *(b)* the Tees Valley since May 2010. [80981]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 14 November 2011]*: There has been a substantial growth in the number of people undertaking apprenticeships both nationally and in the Redcar constituency and Tees Valley since May 2010. This is very encouraging and shows employers are continuing to use apprenticeships as a means of developing the skills they need for their businesses.

Table 1 shows the number of Apprenticeship programme starts in *(a)* Redcar constituency and *(b)* Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees local authorities which comprise the Tees Valley sub region, between May 2010 (2009/10 academic year based on final year data) and July 2011

(2010/11 academic year based on provisional data), the latest period for which data is available.

Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in *(a)* Redcar constituency and *(b)* Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees local authorities which comprise the Tees Valley sub region in 2008/09 and 2009/10, the latest years for which final data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts in Redcar constituency and the Tees Valley, May 2010 to July 2011 (Provisional)

	2009/10	*2010/11*	*Total*
	Quarter 4 May 2010 to July 2010 (Final)	*Full year August 2010 to July 2011 (Provisional)*	*May 2010 to July 2011 (Provisional)*
Redcar constituency	170	1,260	1,420
Darlington local authority	160	1,430	1,590
Hartlepool local authority	100	1,080	1,180
Middlesbrough local authority	220	1,710	1,930
Redcar and Cleveland local authority	240	1,840	2,080
Stockton-on-Tees local authority	290	2,240	2,540
Tees Valley	1,020	8,300	9,320

Table 2: Apprenticeship programme starts in Redcar constituency and the Tees Valley, 2008/09 to 2009/10 (Provisional)

	2008/09 (Final)	*2009/10 (Final)*
Redcar constituency	640	660
Darlington local authority	680	690
Hartlepool local authority	750	670
Middlesbrough local authority	1,070	1,020
Redcar and Cleveland local authority	940	970
Stockton-on-Tees local authority	1,260	1,270
Tees Valley	4,710	4,620

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Geographic information is based upon home postcode of the learner.
3. Tees Valley sub region is comprised of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees local authorities. Figures for Tees Valley sub region are based on the sum of unrounded data for these local authorities.
4. Provisional estimates for 2010/11 can not be compared with final figures for earlier years.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Arms Trade: Bahrain

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of UK arms exports to Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [76339]

Mr Prisk: Following reports of human rights abuses in Bahrain earlier this year, all extant strategic export licences were reviewed and as a result a total of 41 Standard Individual export licences (SIELs) and Open Individual export licences (OIELs) were revoked.

This Government take their arms export responsibilities extremely seriously and operate some of the most rigorous export controls in the world.

All export licences are considered on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria taking account of all prevailing circumstances at the time of the application. A licence will not be issued where to do so would be inconsistent with the Criteria or other relevant announced commitments. In particular Criterion Two concerns the 'respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country of final destination' and states that the Government will not issue an export licence if there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression.

As events change, the risk assessment also has to change. This was the case with a number of licences issued to Bahrain. Export licences have been revoked where they are now, as a result of the situation that emerged in the region, assessed to be inconsistent with the Criteria.

Conditions of Employment

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department are working on the (i) Employment Law Review and (ii) review of Government's workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements. [80327]

Mr Davey: There are 3.25 full-time equivalent members of staff leading work on the Employment Law Review and 1.5 full-time equivalent members of staff leading the Workplace Rights, Compliance and Enforcement Review. As both reviews cut across a number of policy areas, other teams are involved in specific elements of the reviews as part of their general policy maintenance and development responsibilities.

There are no temporary staff working on either review.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which external consultants are advising his Department on the *(a)* Employment Law Review and *(b)* review of Government's workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements; and what the (i) duration and (ii) cost is of any such advice. [80328]

Mr Davey: The Department has not employed any external consultants to advise on the Employment Law Review or the review of workplace rights compliance and enforcement arrangements.

Departmental Procurement

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Transport and *(b)* Minister for the Cabinet Office on the letting of Government contracts to companies based (i) in the UK and (ii) overseas; and if he will make a statement. [73155]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening) and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and

Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) have discussed the matter and also jointly wrote to the Prime Minister to highlight the issue of public procurement and how we should manage the process in the public sector to sustain a competitive supply base that meets the UK's strategic needs within EU procurement rules. The Government are now looking at this area in the current phase of the growth review. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills, met the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) to review progress on this work on 26 October 2011. The procurement work continues within the Government.

Exports: Licensing

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects a decision to be taken on export licence application reference number SIE2011/008293 made by Nu Instruments of Wrexham. [80638]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* This application is currently being considered and we hope to make a decision shortly.

Green Deal Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will include an option for the Green Deal to be financed through the Green Investment Bank as part of its application for state aid clearance. [80975]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Our current intention is to seek a state aid approval for the Green Investment Bank that would enable it to make investments on fully commercial terms (meaning in accordance with the Market Economy Investor Principle) across the green economy. If approved, this would provide scope to support projects delivering the Green Deal once that measure is in place.

Green Investment Bank

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what internal approval criteria will be used to assess the value for money of Government financial interventions in the Green Investment Bank. [76926]

Mr Prisk: All Government interventions must be compatible with state aid law and all products will be tested for value for money, green impact and additionality. The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will operate to a double bottom line of achieving environmental impact and making positive financial returns. Detailed value for money criteria are currently being developed.

Nuclear Suppliers Group

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many notifications the Government has made of refusal of export licences to the Nuclear Suppliers Group in the last 12 months for which records are available. [80640]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Government have made 32 refusal notifications of export licences in the last 12 months to the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the Regional Growth Fund *(a)* has been paid and *(b)* will be paid to professional services firms to undertake due diligence for each grant provided; and if he will make a statement. [80277]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* It is for successful bidders to pay the cost of due diligence.

Regulation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations have been abolished under the Red Tape Challenge. [80586]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* This exercise has looked at 378 regulations relating to the retail and hospitality sectors. As of 9 November we have announced plans to remove or simplify 220 of these (over half). All regulations affecting business will be featured on the website on a rolling basis.

Solar Power

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the contribution of the UK solar industry to gross domestic product. [80974]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 348W.

Trade Promotion: Saudi Arabia

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the name is of each company whose representative accompanied Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint and the Special Representative for International Trade and Investment to Saudi Arabia in September 2011. [75931]

Mr Prisk: Neither the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, my noble Friend the Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, nor HRH the Duke of York, the Special Representative for International Trade were accompanied from the UK by business representatives during their visit to Saudi Arabia in September 2011.

Training

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support the domestic *(a)* train manufacturing industry and its supply chain and *(b)* onshore engineering skills. [75235]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine

Greening), have asked their officials to work together with the sector and key delivery partners, such as UK Trade & Investment, to support the train manufacturing sector and the wider rail supply chain in securing more sustainable UK jobs through clearly identified business opportunities such as the Intercity Express Programme, Thameslink, Crossrail and High Speed 2.

The Technology Strategy Board recently announced a £4 million Accelerating Innovation in Rail funding competition to support the development of technologies that are able to address the challenges facing the rail industry, as well as meeting customer requirements in both UK and international rail markets. It marks the start of a long-term strategic partnership between the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) and the Technology Strategy Board.

Additionally the Department's Solution's for Business offers a range of publically-funded products and services designed to help businesses to overcome key challenges and UK Trade & Investment explore export opportunities.

Furthermore, on 14 October, we also announced details of the new £57 million contract to deliver the Manufacturing Advisory Service which works with manufacturers to identify and implement productivity and innovation improvements to improve their competitiveness. It will be a national service locally delivered and tailored to meet the needs of individual businesses and local economic circumstances. The new service will focus on helping small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) manufacturers in England to develop advanced manufacturing capabilities and could help create an estimated £1.5 billion in economic growth, 23,000 jobs and safeguard 50,000 over three years. It will start in January 2012.

In order to boost technical and vocational skills for the engineering sector at all levels we are (i) doubling to 24 the number of university technical colleges we will establish by 2014; (ii) investing an extra £180 million to deliver at least 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years than the previous Government planned; and (iii) encouraging the development of new degree-equivalent higher level apprenticeships, which will include recognised engineering status.

Venture Capital

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage angel investors. [80412]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Business angels are becoming an increasingly important source of start-up and early stage venture capital for businesses with high growth potential, particularly for businesses wishing to raise funding up to £250,000.

The Government are supporting the development of a new £50 million Business Angel Co-investment Fund as part of a successful bid to the Regional Growth Fund. The fund will be available to invest, alongside Business Angel networks or syndicates, into eligible small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and is due to launch by the end of the year.

Tax incentives, including the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs), support business angel investment. Changes in March's Budget were announced to the rules relating to EIS and VCTs, further encouraging individual investors. HM Treasury has just completed a consultation on changes to EIS and VCTs including a proposal to provide additional help for early stage companies, investments that Business Angels often undertake.

Government also continue to support the early stage market through Enterprise Capital Funds which can include angel finance as part of the private investment leverage generated in these funds.

HEALTH

Climate Change

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of climate change on expenditure under the NHS. [80447]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made any specific cost assessments related to health services on the impact of climate change ahead of the outcomes from the climate change risk assessment (CCRA). The CCRA will provide a collaborative assessment across Government and help to prioritise areas of concern for consideration.

Departmental officials have been working closely with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in their programme to develop a National CCRA. The conclusion to the first assessment will be laid before Parliament in early 2012 by DEFRA and will lead to the development of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in 2013.

Within individual and independent CCRA sector reports, of which Health is one and which will be made available alongside the CCRA, a monetary assessment has been made to inform the economic efficiency of decision making.

The national health service is a category one or category two responder under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004). Under these arrangements it is well placed to deal with the outcome of adverse weather events both in operational terms and in health care delivery. Climate change adaptation assessment and measures needed are the responsibility of individual health trusts.

Through the changes that are being proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill (2011) more and closer working relationships will be established at local government and public health level to address the impacts of climate change.

Ambulance Services: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated transfer time is for an emergency patient between Warrington and Chester *(a)* during the morning rush hour, *(b)* during the evening rush hour and *(c)* at other times of day. [80886]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Information on local estimated transfer times for emergency patients may be obtained from North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust or, in the context of Cheshire and Merseyside vascular service review, Kathy Doran, chief executive of the Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral Primary Care Trust cluster board.

Blood: Merseyside

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assurances were given to the Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review that clinical concerns about a centre based at the Countess of Chester Hospital could be resolved; and what steps have been taken to resolve such concerns since they were raised; [80881]

(2) what information he has received on concerns expressed by clinicians at Arrowe Park Hospital about decisions made by the Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review; and if he will make a statement. [80882]

Mr Simon Burns: Vascular services across the national health service in England are being reviewed locally. This is in response to the growing clinical evidence base that provides a strong case for providing vascular surgery services in fewer more specialised centres or networks to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

Decisions about the provision of local health services, including vascular services, are a matter for the local NHS.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review Project board is leading a review of vascular surgery services in Cheshire and Merseyside which will be subject to public consultation in due course.

Information on the proposed changes to vascular services in Cheshire and Merseyside can be obtained from Kathy Doran, chief executive of the Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral Primary Care Trust cluster board.

One letter has been received on concerns expressed by clinicians at Arrowe Park hospital about the Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review from my hon. Friend the Member for Wirral West (Esther McVey), in September 2011.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) where the two public engagement meetings for the Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review were held; what steps were taken to notify members of the public of those meetings; and how many people from each area attended each meeting; [80880]

(2) what matters were raised by the Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Services Review about the clinical working at an arterial centre based at the Countess of Chester Hospital; following an application by the Countess of Chester Hospital and Wirral University Teaching Hospitals to form a South Mersey Vascular Network; [80884]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on other services at Warrington Hospital of the loss of vascular services; and if he will make a statement. [80885]

Mr Simon Burns: Vascular services across the national health service in England are being reviewed locally. This is in response to the growing clinical evidence base that provides a strong case for providing vascular surgery services in fewer more specialised centres or networks to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

Decisions about the provision of local health services, including vascular services, are a matter for the local NHS. As such no assessment has been made by the Department.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review Project board is leading a review of vascular surgery services in Cheshire and Merseyside which will be subject to public consultation.

Information on the public engagement carried out as part of the vascular service review, including details on the public engagement exercise, in Cheshire and Merseyside can be obtained from Kathy Doran, chief executive of the Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral Primary Care Trust cluster board.

Breast Cancer: Screening

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of proposed NHS reforms on breast cancer screening for disabled women. [80948]

Paul Burstow: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, from 1 April 2013 the NHS Commissioning Board will have responsibility for commissioning routine cancer screening programmes to a specification developed by Public Health England. We would not expect there to be any major changes to current arrangements for disabled women.

Women who use wheelchairs and are unable to access the mobile screening units are currently offered an alternative appointment in static units in hospitals at a time and date that is convenient to them. Disabled women are also offered longer appointment times to accommodate their individual needs and enable comprehensive screening by mammography. Additional assistance can be provided if necessary.

For women with learning difficulties, leaflets have also been produced to explain breast screening to help them make an informed choice whether or not to be screened. These leaflets are freely available to local screening services.

Cancer

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the findings in respect of cancer survival rates in the recent paper by Professor Colin Pritchard and Dr Tamas Hickish; and if he will make a statement. [80689]

Paul Burstow: "Comparing cancer mortality and GDP health expenditure in England and Wales with other major developed countries from 1979 to 2006", published in the British Journal of Cancer (BJC), reported that mortality rates from cancer in England and Wales fell significantly between 1979 and 2006, a time during which the national health service spent proportionally less on health care than other countries included in the study.

We know that England has a good track record on reducing cancer mortality, especially in men under 75. This is largely related to falls in smoking prevalence in the previous two decades and has little to do with levels of NHS expenditure. However, looking at cancer mortality rates does not provide a good way of assessing NHS performance as it is an indicator of both incidence and of survival. Survival rates are a much more effective way of assessing NHS performance as they show how good the NHS is, compared with other countries, in diagnosing and treating people with cancer.

In terms of cancer survival rates, we know that we are lagging behind other countries. In "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" we have set out the ambition to be as good as the European average and save an additional 5,000 lives per year by 2014-15.

A copy of the BJC paper has been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Wigs

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to improve the standard of NHS wigs provided to people undergoing chemotherapy. [80946]

Anne Milton: The NHS Supply Chain has negotiated a national agreement for the provision of wigs to the national health service; this includes a patient satisfaction form which must be signed by the patient before the NHS releases payment. NHS organisations are not mandated to use this agreement and can choose to make their own supply arrangements. In these cases, they must ensure the quality of services is appropriate.

Care Homes

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total number of care home places was in each local authority area in each of the last 15 years. [80601]

Paul Burstow: Information on the numbers of care and nursing homes and places has been collected by several organisations during the period from 1996 to the present day.

Until 2002, residential care homes were registered by individual local authorities and nursing homes were registered by local health authorities. The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care holds registration data collected from these organisations for the period until 2001.

The Information Centre has provided information on numbers of care and nursing homes and places, broken down by local authority and health authority areas for the years ending 31 March 1997 to 2001. This has been placed in the Library.

From 2002, care and nursing homes were registered by the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC), the first national regulator of adult social care services. The NCSC was replaced in 2004 by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), which was replaced in 2009 by the present regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

We are informed by CQC that it can provide data on numbers of care homes and places for the period from 2004, when the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) was established as the regulator of adult social care. CQC has access to statistical data collected by CSCI. However, CQC cannot provide data for the years 2002-04, when homes were registered by the NCSC, as it is unable to confirm its accuracy.

CQC has provided information, showing numbers of care and nursing homes and places by local authority area for the period 31 March 2004 to 31 October 2011. This has been placed in the Library.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were waiting to be discharged from hospital because of a shortage of community care facilities in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [80602]

Paul Burstow: The latest information on the numbers of delayed transfer of care awaiting a care package in their own home and awaiting community equipment and adaptions is shown in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in nursing homes in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* England in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [80693]

Paul Burstow: Data on the number of adults—aged 18 and over—whose care is funded either partially or wholly by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Information on the numbers of care and nursing home residents who fund their own care is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of people aged 18 and over who were in nursing homes in Kent and England as at 31 March 2009 and 31 March 2010, whose care was funded partially or wholly by CASSRs. Provisional data for the year ending 31 March 2011 are due to be published on 30 November 2011.

Number of adults—aged 18 and over—in nursing homes as at 31 March

	2009	*2010*
Kent	1,515	1,490
England	60,775	58,805

Note:
Figures for Kent and England rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Adult Social Care-Combined Activity Return (ASC-CAR)

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in nursing homes in *(a)* Redditch and *(b)* England in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [81266]

Paul Burstow: Data on the number of adults—aged 18 and over—whose care is funded either partially or wholly by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care. The Information Centre does not collect data on numbers of care and nursing home residents in Redditch. Data are collected for Worcestershire, which includes Redditch.

Information on the numbers of care and nursing home residents who fund their own care is not collected centrally.

The table shows the number of people aged 18 and over who were in nursing homes in Worcestershire and England as at 31 March 2009 and 31 March 2010, whose care was funded partially or wholly by CASSRs. Provisional data for the year ending 31 March 2011 are due to be published on 30 November 2011.

Number of adults—aged 18 and over—in nursing homes as at 31 March

	2009	*2010*
Worcestershire	860	790
England	60,775	58,805

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Adult Social Care—Combined Activity Return (ASC-CAR).

Change4Life

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of the Change4Life scheme is for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [80464]

Anne Milton: The budget for the Change4Life scheme for 2011-12 is £8.5 million, as approved by the Efficiency and Reform Group in March 2011. Details of how this will be used are within the "Change4Life Three Year Social Marketing Strategy", published on 13 October 2011, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

Cystic Fibrosis

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the national tariff for cystic fibrosis to be implemented; [80890]

(2) what analysis has been conducted into applying the market forces factor for the draft national tariff for cystic fibrosis; and if he will make a statement; [80891]

(3) what consideration he has given to discounting drug costs from the market forces factor in relation to the draft national tariff for cystic fibrosis; and if he will make a statement. [80892]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is collaborating closely with the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Specialist Commissioning Group Commissioners, clinicians and providers on developing a tariff for cystic fibrosis (CF) which will deliver high quality CF care.

We have recently consulted on proposed tariffs with a number of national health service organisations, including CF specialist providers and national CF commissioning leads.

Through this 'sense check' exercise we have sought views on the proposal to introduce a mandatory year-of-care CF tariff. We are currently reviewing responses before deciding if the CF tariff can be introduced on a mandatory or non-mandatory basis from April 2012.

The prices shared at sense check were adjusted to take account of the market forces factor (MFF). The intention is that MFF would be applied to the CF tariff if it were introduced, as it is applied to all mandatory tariffs.

Drugs costs are reflected in the proposed year-of-care tariff; therefore, as MFF is applied to the tariff, it would also apply to the drugs costs that are reflected in the tariff price. The calculation of the MFF takes account of the fact that some health care related costs do not vary geographically.

Dementia: Research

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on dementia research in each financial year since 1997-98. [80398]

Paul Burstow: Annual expenditure figures are shown in the following table:

Department of Health expenditure on dementia research

	£ million
1997-98	0.4
1998-99	3.2
1999-2000	1.0
2000-01	4.7
2001-02	2.9
2002-03	1.6
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	19.0
2005-06	18.3
2006-07	22.8
2007-08	22.2
2008-09	18.4
2009-10	12.7
2010-11	18.6

The figures for the years from 1997-98 to 2003-04 relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include the part of the research and development allocations made annually at that time to national health service providers and spent on dementia research. That information was not collected prior to 2004-05.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80184]

Mr Simon Burns: In the relevant period, the Department's Communications Directorate has not awarded any contracts for design services.

To trawl the Department and its related agencies to establish whether any other contracts for design services have been awarded would incur disproportionate costs.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80203]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not changed its logo or stationery since 1999, therefore no money was spent on design of logos or stationery in 2010-11.

No money was spent on building design during the same year.

The Department does not hold data on money spent specifically on the design elements relating to advertising and campaigns. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's total advertising expenditure in 2010-11 was £4,230,478.

Departmental Food

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on food procurement in each year from 1997 to 2011. [80317]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has spent the following amounts on food and beverages since October 2004. No data are available prior to that date:

£

Year[1]	*Total*	*Food*	*Beverages*
2004-05	832,117.14	554,744.76	277,372.38
2005-06	833,411.13	555,607.42	277,803.71
2006-07	796,003.72	530,669.15	265,334.57
2007-08	877,529.83	585,019.88	292,509.95
2008-09	830,226.72	553,484.48	276,742.24
2009-10	692,759.81	461,839.87	230,919.94
2010-11	452,293.00	301,528.66	150,764.34
Total	5,314,341.35	3,542,894.22	1,771,447.13

[1] The financial year is October to September.

Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to include an indicator to incentivise a pre-diabetic register in the 2012-13 Quality Outcomes Framework. [R] [80253]

Mr Simon Burns: The prioritisation of potential indicators for inclusion in the quality and outcomes framework (QOF) is the responsibility of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and its independent primary care QOF Indicator Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee met on 8 June 2011 and recommended that the QOF diabetes register indicator should be amended to include other types of diabetes. These recommendations have been accepted into the general practitioner contract for 2012-13. These recommendations do not include patients who are classified as pre-diabetic.

Disability: Children

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisation will be responsible for designing care pathways and shaping local services for disabled children. [80525]

Anne Milton: Subject to passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, clinical commissioning groups will be responsible for commissioning services for children and young people with a disability or complex needs. They will work in partnership with the Health and Wellbeing Boards that will be a forum for local commissioners across the NHS, local government, elected representatives, and representatives of HealthWatch to agree how to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in their area including children and young people. We expect that the National Commissioning Board (NHSCB) will have responsibility for the direct commissioning of a number of services from April 2013. Included within those services will be services for people with rare conditions which are currently commissioned at both a national and regional level as described in the Specialised National Definitions Set.

We have proposed that when commissioning children's services, both the NHSCB and Clinical Commissioning Groups will also seek advice from paediatricians, nurses and other clinical professionals with expertise across a range of areas. There will be senior clinical leadership for children's services within the NHS Commissioning Board providing advice and support to commissioners.

Also the special educational needs and disability pathfinders, set up to test some of the proposals set out in the Green Paper "Support and Aspiration—A new approach to SEN" will have a key role to play in shaping and improving services for children and young people with a disability.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure that information and support is provided to disabled children and young people and their families on the way in which reforms to the NHS will affect them. [80526]

Anne Milton: The Government has asked the NHS Future Forum to continue its conversations with professionals, service users and the public, including parents, about how to modernise the national health service.

As part of this process, it has produced information materials that can be used by local groups to consider how these changes will affect them locally. Clinical Commissioning Groups and Health and Wellbeing Boards will also have a key role to play in ensuring that they provide information that takes account of their local population.

We recognise that for specific groups, more tailored information may be required. Where this is identified as being the case, we will consider how best this should be done.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that clinical commissioning groups will meet the needs of disabled children and young people with high-cost and low-incidence conditions. [80527]

Mr Simon Burns: The arrangements we are proposing for commissioning would see clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) led by local clinicians responsible for coordinating the commissioning of complex or low volume services; including those for disabled children and young people. CCGs will have the flexibility to enter into collaborative arrangements. They can for example adopt a lead commissioner/CCG model and develop risk-pooling arrangements to commission services.

CCGs will have support to take on their role—general practitioners will be working with their clinical colleagues to draw on their expertise when designing care for patients. CCGs will also receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning specialised services. We anticipate that the list of these services including specialised services for children, will be based closely on the current Specialised Services National Definition Set.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of the NHS Commissioning Board establishing a Clinical Network for children with responsibility for developing care pathways for disabled children and young people. [80528]

Anne Milton: Clinical networks will support the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups to design pathways of care and shape services, based on a wide-range of multi-disciplinary input. Proposals for the role of clinical networks will be developed after the completion of a review of clinical networks which is engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to assess how the functions and range of networks can most effectively support commissioners.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve health services for disabled children. [80529]

Anne Milton: The Government are committed to improving the lives of children and young people who are disabled and to providing more support for their families and carers. This is reflected in this year's operating framework, where we identify disabled children as a specific group that the national health service should pay particular attention to.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS and public health reforms also provide a significant opportunity for improving the range and quality of services available to children and young people with disabilities and complex needs. The role of health and well being boards will be to examine the health needs of their local population and to design a joint health and wellbeing strategy to meet those needs. Clinical commissioning groups and local authorities' commissioning plans will be informed by the local joint health and well-being strategy—including services for children with disabilities. The local services will be judged against the health outcomes and many of the indicators within the NHS and public health outcomes frameworks, either directly or indirectly require improvements in services for children and young people.

The Department of Health also worked closely with the Department for Education in the development of the Government's Green Paper "Support and Aspiration—A new approach to SEN" published in March 2011.

As announced in the Green Paper, 20 pathfinders covering 31 local authorities and primary care trust clusters have been appointed to test the ambition of the proposals. This will include testing various elements to improve the current system including a new single assessment process with a single education, health and care plan along with the option of a personal budget. The pilots will run initially for 18 months.

Doctors: Pay

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary is of a junior doctor in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Milton Keynes. [81013]

Mr Simon Burns: Pay is a devolved matter. I am therefore not able to provide the average salary for a junior doctor in the UK. The mean total earnings for junior doctors in England (from April to June 2011) are tabled as follows:

	£
Foundation year 1/House officer	32,300
Foundation year 2/Senior house officer	41,200
Registrar Group	55,800

These figures are published every quarter by the NHS Information Centre in "NHS Staff Earnings Survey" and are available on their website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-earnings/nhs-staff-earnings-april--june-2011

The information for salaries of junior doctors in Milton Keynes will be held locally by individual employers, and the hon. Member may wish to approach each employer to obtain this information. We do not collect and validate this information centrally.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of deaths arising from an overdose of illegal drugs. [81309]

Anne Milton: The Government published their drug strategy in December 2010 which aims to prevent drug use, interrupt drug supply and help more people to recover from drug dependence.

Data published by the Office for National Statistics in August show that deaths from drug misuse, including overdose, fell by 5% between 2009 and 2010, from 1,731 to 1,625.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visitors to the UK had more than one unpaid debt to the NHS of £1,000 or more in each of the five years preceding the changes in regulations that came into force on 31 October 2011. [80237]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold this information. However, as part of the evaluation of a policy to amend the immigration rules to allow an outstanding debt to the national health service to be a reason to refuse a new visa or extension of stay to a person subject to immigration control, the Department estimated that around 3,600 people each year incur unpaid debts to the NHS of £1,000 or more.

We are developing processes to ensure these data are available to the UK Border Agency to deliver this commitment.

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much owed by foreign nationals for NHS treatment was *(a)* recovered and *(b)* unrecovered in each of the last five years; [81015]

(2) what arrangements are in place to recover money owed by foreign nationals for NHS treatment; [81016]

(3) whether he intends to bring forward proposals to change the system of recovering money owed by foreign nationals for NHS treatment. [81017]

Anne Milton: Entitlement to free national health service hospital treatment is based on ordinary residence in the United Kingdom or exemption from charges under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011. These regulations place a duty on NHS bodies providing treatment to charge those overseas visitors who are not exempt and recover the charge from them. Many use debt collection agencies to aid this process.

As of 31 October 2011, an outstanding debt to the NHS of £1,000 or more is a reason for immigration officers normally to refuse a new visa or extension of stay to a person subject to immigration control. The Department is now finalising guidance to the NHS on how to share information with the UK Border Agency to facilitate this. Further, the Department is currently reviewing access to the NHS by overseas visitors, including how to establish more effective processes across the NHS to recover charges.

The following table shows the total audited income from overseas visitors under non-reciprocal arrangements and total audited losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for each of the last five years, for England. As well as foreign nationals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK, these data include UK nationals who are not ordinarily resident here. The data do not include moneys owed that hospitals are still in the process of attempting to recover.

£

	Income from overseas visitors under non-reciprocal arrangements	*Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients*
2006-07	15,182,925	5,046,763
2007-08	18,167,000	6,468,751
2008-09	17,541,000	5,204,856
2009-10	17,127,000	6,967,780
2010-11	23,333,000	6,773,733

Note:

We do not collect data from NHS foundation trusts so figures exclude these sites.

Source:

NHS Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

Heart Diseases: Ethnic Groups

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to increase patient take-up of cardiac rehabilitation among *(a)* women and *(b)* black, Asian and minority ethnic groups. [80860]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation Annual Statistical Report 2011 suggests that there may be little difference in the take-up of cardiac rehabilitation (CR) between different ethnic groups, although women may be under-represented in these programmes.

Several steps are being taken to improve the provision and take-up of CR services for all eligible patients. Among the resources available to help commission cardiac rehabilitation services are the Department's Commissioning Pack for Cardiac Rehabilitation and the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence's Guide for Commissioners on Cardiac Rehabilitation Services. These, alongside the National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation funded through the British Heart Foundation, and the NHS improvement work to support implementation of the commissioning pack, will help ensure that commissioners have the information they need to take account of the specific needs of all patients eligible for cardiac rehabilitation in their commissioning decisions.

IVF

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure equality of access to IVF treatment. [80947]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts are fully aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers. The national health service deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to primary care trust commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight to those involved in commissioning fertility services the importance of having regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

Additionally, we support Infertility Network UK, a leading patient support organisation, to develop and promote standardised access criteria and to work in partnership with commissioners to encourage good practice in the provision of fertility services.

James Paget Hospital: Sick Leave

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days NHS staff at the James Paget University hospital have taken sick leave in each year since 2006. [81033]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the sickness absence for national health service staff at the James Paget University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, April 2009 to June 2011 is in the following table:

Sickness absence at the James Paget University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Period	*Absence (days)*
April 2009 to March 2010	37,730
April 2010 to March 2011	34,295
April 2011 to June 2011	8,365

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures are for national health service staff only and do not include bank staff or locums.
3. While a low number of recorded sickness absence days generally represents a low level of sickness absence it can also represent under reporting.
4. The NHS Information Centre did not publish sickness absence data prior to April 2009.

Source:

NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care—Processed using data taken from the Electronic Staff Record Data Warehouse

Maternity Services: Finance

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of spending by the NHS was on maternity care in each financial year between 1997-98 and 2010-11. [80223]

Anne Milton: Expenditure on the purchase of secondary maternity care by primary care trusts (PCTs) for 1997-98 to 2010-11 is set out in the following table.

	Net NHS expenditure	
	£000	*Percentage*
1997-98	1,043,881	3.10
1998-99	1,096,158	3.06
1999-2000	1,080,520	2.77
2000-01	1,258,219	2.94
2001-02	1,324,780	2.79
2002-03	1,256,757	2.41
2003-04	1,350,286	2.18
2004-05	1,544,838	2.30
2005-06	1,677,204	2.26
2006-07	1,616,777	2.05
2007-08	1,786,896	2.06
2008-09	1,968,563	2.16
2009-10	2,407,090	2.46
2010-11	2,532,350	2.64

Note:

The figures are taken from the audited NHS (England) Summarised Accounts for 1997-98 to 2010-11, which are publicly available. The figure is for secondary health care only; we have no information relating to primary health care expenditure on maternity services.

Medicine: Prices

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what stakeholder involvement there will be in establishing the weightings for disease severity, level of unmet need and innovation to be used in any future value-based pricing scheme for medicines; [80374]

(2) what progress he has made in developing a value-based pricing system for medicines; and what steps he is taking to ensure a system is in place from 2014. [80375]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's response to the consultation on a new value-based pricing system for branded medicines was published on 18 July. In it, we set out our intention that value-based pricing will apply to new active substances placed on the market from 1 January 2014, however, the vast majority of branded medicines already on the market before 2014 will be considered by the successor arrangements to the current Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme.

As we take forward our work in this area, we intend to collaborate with external experts and stakeholders, to ensure that the value-based pricing system is clear, robust and transparent, and that industry, patients, clinicians and all others who have an interest can understand how valuations are made in the new system.

Mental Health

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to support the development of step down and community services for people requiring discharge from secure mental health services; [80454]

(2) if he will assess the recommendations in the Centre for Mental Health's report on unlocking pathways to secure mental health care; [80455]

(3) plans to divide commissioning responsibilities for *(a)* medium and low secure mental health services and *(b)* step-down and community forensic mental health services between the National Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups. [80458]

Paul Burstow: "Pathways to unlocking secure mental health care" published by the Centre for Mental Health in April 2011 makes 12 recommendations for the national health service to improve quality, innovation, productivity and prevention within secure mental health services. The report recognises that the NHS is already actively working to address several of the recommendations.

Secure mental health services are currently being commissioned as a specialised service by the four clusters of specialised commissioning groups in England. This means that standardised specifications, quality standards, quality payments and prices are being developed for secure mental health services, which will put in place the consistent framework the report calls for.

Some of the specialised commissioning groups are already changing the balance of investment and reinvesting in step down facilities. For example, in the north west and south west there are good examples of reinvestment in step down facilities to enable the whole system to operate more effectively.

The Department of Health and the National Offender Management Service have consulted and published a response on a pathway approach for offenders with personality disorder and commissioners are already changing the balance of investment in these services to enable earlier identification, progression and support in the community when appropriate for increased numbers of offenders. Commissioning for outcomes and involvement of service users is being embedded in every stage of the pathway.

Although plans for the future commissioning of secure mental health services are still in development, it is probable that they will be commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board and continue to be commissioned as a 'specialised' service.

Forensic Payment by Results is also under development. Commissioning as a specialised service will allow the NHS to focus on outcomes, pathways and quality.

Current work on 'integrated care', or pathways, has looked specifically at barriers to ensuring that the patients receive the right care at the right time and that the new commissioning architecture does not put any new barriers in the way. This work has focused specifically on pathways into and out of specialised mental health services, which includes secure services.

Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust: Complaints

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the system for complaints in Morecambe Bay NHS Trust. [80953]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service organisations are responsible for managing local NHS complaints. Under the NHS Complaints Procedure, all NHS organisations must have in place a complaints procedure. The 'NHS Constitution: the NHS belongs to us all' (March 2010) also sets out the rights of patients who wish to complain about the NHS.

However, the Department plans to review the Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 in 2014, in response to the Health Committee report into Complaints and Litigation published in June 2011.

NHS

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the level of consideration that should be given to patient access, including access by public transport, in any review of NHS service provision. [80883]

Mr Simon Burns: In line with the Government's commitment to devolve power to communities, decisions about national health services locally are essentially a matter for the local NHS. People, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils are best placed to determine the nature of their local NHS services.

We have outlined four new, strengthened criteria that decisions on NHS service changes are expected to meet. They must demonstrate strengthened public and patient engagement; consider patient choice; have support from GP commissioners; and be based on sound clinical evidence. Patient access issues should be taken into account as part of this process.

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of revalidating an individual *(a)* NHS and *(b)* non-NHS practitioner in the latest period for which figures are available. [81185]

Anne Milton: Revalidation is not currently in place for health care practitioners. Medical revalidation is currently being piloted and assessed throughout the United Kingdom with a view to implementation in late 2012.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct each part of the NHS to lift any gagging restrictions on *(a)* present and *(b)* former NHS staff that (i) have and (ii) have had the effect of withholding from the public and the media information, evidence or justified concerns about levels of care in the NHS. [81029]

Anne Milton: The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 provides that any clause or term in a contract, or other agreement between a worker and their employer, is void in so far as it purports to preclude the worker from making a protected disclosure.

Health Service Circular 1999/198 made it clear that local national health service trusts should have in place policies and procedures which prohibit confidentiality "gagging" clauses in contracts of employment which seek to prevent the disclosure of information in the public interest, which includes information, evidence or justified concerns about levels of care in the NHS.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what circumstances a suspended NHS *(a)* manager, *(b)* clinician and *(c)* other employee is prevented from talking with colleagues and former colleagues by the NHS. [81030]

Mr Simon Burns: The exclusion from work of national health service employees, and any conditions related to that exclusion, will be a matter for NHS employers in accordance with locally agreed disciplinary and grievance procedures taking into account the circumstances of each individual case.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have settled an employment tribunal claim before determination with a confidential agreement restricting the release of information on *(a)* low standards of clinical care and *(b)* the number of failures noticed by the Care Quality Commission on essential quality and safety standards in each of the last five years. [81038]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information. The Department does not routinely monitor the use of confidentiality clauses in compromise agreements. The Department's guidance, contained within the health circulars HSC 2004/001 for National Health Service managers and HSC 1999/198 for all employees, does not prevent the use of confidentiality clauses per se. However, it does state that NHS employers must consider with their legal advisers whether such a clause is necessary in the circumstances of each case and that if such a clause is included within a particular agreement that it complies with their various statutory obligations regarding the treatment of confidential information, including the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

Before an employee considers signing a compromise agreement, which may or may not contain a confidentiality clause, the employer is required to pay for the employee to have independent legal advice on the terms of the agreement.

NHS: Employment Tribunals Service

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to require NHS Trusts to seek ministerial approval before appealing an adverse employment tribunal decision. [80937]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government do not plan to introduce a policy to require national health service trusts to seek ministerial approval before appealing an adverse employment tribunal decision. The decision to appeal is a matter for local determination.

NHS: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female active members of the NHS Pension Scheme earn up to £15,000 but have a full-time equivalent salary of more than £15,000. [81291]

Mr Simon Burns: Estimates based on data extracted from the electronic staff record in March 2011 show the following information:

(a) Of those who are estimated to be members of the NHS Pension Scheme, around 80% of female Hospital and Community Health Services staff who earn less than £15,000 per year have full-time equivalent pay of more than £15,000.

(b) Of those who are estimated to be members of the NHS Pension Scheme, around 50% of male Hospital and Community Health Services staff who earn less than £15,000 per year have full-time equivalent pay of more than £15,000.

NHS: Sexual Offences

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female victims of sexual abuse aged (i) up to 16, (ii) between 16 and 40 and (iii) over 40 have received NHS treatment arising from that abuse in each of the last 10 years. [80384]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the form requested as data on this treatment are not collected centrally. However, information on admissions for 'sexual assault by bodily force' is recorded and figures are provided in the table. This does not include people treated in accident and emergency, out-patients or primary care settings and does not reflect the number of people who have been abused, as the same person may have been admitted more than once.

Count of finished admission episodes with a cause code of Y05 in England, 2010-11 to 2001-02

	Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector									
	2010-11	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
Male										
Under 16	13	6	9	12	10	10	7	6	4	4
16 to 40	92	93	60	68	86	91	79	44	40	42
Over 40	33	20	25	19	26	16	21	13	9	7
Unknown	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	141	119	94	99	122	117	107	63	53	53
Female										
Under 16	28	28	21	18	14	22	21	23	18	19
16 to 40	96	66	74	68	72	79	65	60	33	41
Over 40	31	31	16	11	25	19	22	13	13	7
Unknown	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Total	157	126	112	97	111	120	109	97	65	69

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS: Solar Power

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the potential cost to hospitals, surgeries and other NHS buildings that were planning to install photovoltaic solar systems arising from the proposed reductions in feed-in tariffs. [81085]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect data from the national health service on the installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar systems under the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme or otherwise that would enable such an estimate to be provided.

Decisions on the use of the FIT scheme will continue to be made by individual NHS trusts and at an individual site/building level. NHS trusts also have the opportunity to participate in the current Department for Energy and Climate Change Consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV up until the 23 December 2011.

Orphan Drugs

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what applications for (a) specialised services and (b) orphan and ultra orphan therapies have been received by the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services; [80224]

(2) when he expects the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services to make a recommendation to Ministers on services for atypical haemolytic uremic syndrome; and if he will make a statement; [80225]

(3) when he plans to make a decision on the commissioning of specialised services for atypical haemolytic uremic syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [80226]

Mr Simon Burns: The Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS) received 29 outline applications for services to be considered for inclusion in the national arrangements for specialised services in 2012-13 and has received six drug therapies for consideration. AGNSS will be finalising its recommendations to Ministers on those specialised services to be commissioned nationally at its meeting on the 8 December 2011.

Following that meeting Ministers will consider the recommendations made by AGNSS. Decisions on those recommendations are expected in early 2012.

Paramedical Staff

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS paramedic posts which have been lost in the last 12 months. [80554]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of paramedics employed is collected and reported in the NHS Information Centre annual census.

The most recent data available show that there has been an increase of 589 (headcount) employed in the past 12 months, with 10,089 (headcount) employed in 2009 and 10,678 (headcount) in 2010, the date of the last annual census.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future funding of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. [80373]

Anne Milton: The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme is continuing.

For the financial year 2012-13, the Department will continue to manage the service level agreement with NHS Supply Chain on behalf of primary care trusts, who will contribute to the scheme in proportion to their overall allocations.

Smoking: Motor Vehicles

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend on campaigns to reduce smoking in cars in the presence of children in each of the next three years. [81089]

Anne Milton: £15 million has been allocated for tobacco control marketing and communications activity during 2011-12. The Department is currently developing a national campaign to remind smokers of the harms of second hand smoke and to encourage them to change their behaviour to protect children and non-smokers. This activity is planned to run in spring 2012 and the exact budget for this campaign has not yet been confirmed. Marketing budgets have not been agreed beyond March 2012.

Strokes

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to maintain the supply of products for the prevention of a transient ischaemic attack which meet National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. [81036]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department works closely with manufacturers and other representatives of the medicines supply chain to ensure that patients get the medicines they need, when they need them.

We have no reason to believe that companies supplying the medicines recommended for the treatment and prevention of transient ischaemic attack in accordance with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance (aspirin, clopidogrel and modified release dipyridamole) are not able to meet current demand from United Kingdom patients.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 9 November 2011

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Voter Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department spent on steps to encourage voter registration in each of the last five years; and how much funding he plans to allocate for such purposes in each of the next four years. [75900]

[Official Report, 20 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 1099W.]

Letter of correction from Mark Harper:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane) on 20 October 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Harper: Electoral registration is the responsibility of individual Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). Local authorities have a duty to encourage participation in the electoral process and the Electoral Commission promotes public awareness of registration and produces research and reports on electoral registration issues. Electoral registration activity at the local level is funded through the Revenue Support Grant from central Government.

The Ministry of Justice (responsible for elections policy until June 2010) provided funding through the Electoral Participation Fund set up in 2007-08 to support local electoral officers in undertaking their statutory duties. The following funds were provided from the Participation Fund: £934,742 in 2007-08, £544,392 in 2008-09 and £153,895 in 2009-10. A further £67,355 was spent in 2010-11 to support activities undertaken by electoral administrators to encourage participation at the elections which were held on 6 May 2010, but approved in the previous financial year. The Participation Fund was closed in the Emergency Budget of 22 June 2010.

The Government have allocated a total of £108 million to meet the cost of implementing Individual Electoral Registration. This will fund EROs to make contact with each potential elector individually and invite them to register in 2014. It will also fund research to understand the current state of the electoral register and currently under-registered groups in order to ensure that as many people as possible are registered to vote. This year the Government are funding the piloting of 'data matching' of electoral registers against other data sources, such as the National Pupil Database and the Department for Work and Pensions database, to identify possible eligible electors, as well as looking at the ways in which we can make it as easy and secure as possible for citizens to register to vote, such as online registration.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Harper: Electoral registration is the responsibility of individual Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). Local authorities have a duty to encourage participation in the electoral process and the Electoral Commission promotes public awareness of registration and produces research and reports on electoral registration issues. Electoral registration activity at the local level is funded through the Revenue Support Grant from central Government.

The Ministry of Justice (responsible for elections policy until June 2010) provided funding through the Electoral Participation Fund set up in 2007-08 to support local electoral officers in undertaking their statutory duties. The following funds were provided from the Participation Fund: £934,742 in 2007-08, £544,392 in 2008-09 and **£427,190** in 2009-10. A further **£54,708** was spent in 2010-11 to support activities undertaken by electoral administrators to encourage participation at the elections which were held on 6 May 2010, but approved in the previous financial year. The Participation Fund was closed in the Emergency Budget of 22 June 2010.

The Government have allocated a total of £108 million to meet the cost of implementing Individual Electoral Registration. This will fund EROs to make contact with each potential elector individually and invite them to register in 2014. It will also fund research to understand the current state of the electoral register and currently under-registered groups in order to ensure that as many people as possible are registered to vote. This year the Government are funding the piloting of 'data matching' of electoral registers against other data sources, such as the National Pupil Database and the Department for Work and Pensions database, to identify possible eligible electors, as well as looking at the ways in which we can make it as easy and secure as possible for citizens to register to vote, such as online registration.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 14 November 2011

TRANSPORT

Topical Questions

The following is the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), to a question from the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock) during Transport Question Time on 10 November 2011.

T6. [79702] **Matthew Hancock** (West Suffolk) (Con): In Mildenhall, Brandon, Elveden and across Suffolk and East Anglia, people are thrilled that the Government are finally completing the dualling of the A11, but the questions they are now asking are when will it be finished, and when can they finally drive at an appropriate pace all the way up to Norfolk?

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I hope those people will drive not only at an appropriate pace but at a safe pace within the law. As my hon. Friend knows, we started the project early and promised that we would be as fast as we possible could. We hope that it will be done in early 2014, but if it can be done earlier, we certainly will do it.

[Official Report, 10 November 2011, Vol. 535, c. 434.]

Letter of correction from Mike Penning:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 10 November 2011. The correct answer should have been:

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I hope those people will drive not only at an appropriate pace but at a safe pace within the law. As my hon. Friend knows, we started the project early and promised that we would be as fast as we possible could. **It is programmed to finish by early 2015, towards the end of the 2014-15 financial year**, but if it can be done earlier, we certainly will do it.

INDEX TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SERIES **VOLUME 535**

SESSION 2010–12

7th November—15 November 2011

SCOPE

The index is derived from the headings that appear in Hansard.

The index includes entries covering the names of all Members contributing to the Parliamentary business recorded in Hansard, including Divisions.

REFERENCES

- References in the indexes are to columns rather than pages.
- There are separate sequences in Hansard for the material taken on the floor of the House, Westminster Hall sittings, written statements, written questions, ministerial corrections and petitions
  - References consisting of a number by itself indicate material taken on the floor of the House.
  - References ending in 'wh' indicate Westminster Hall sittings.
  - References ending in 'ws' indicate written statements.
  - References ending in 'w' indicate written questions.
  - References ending in 'p' indicate written petitions.
  - References ending in 'mc' indicate ministerial corrections.
- References under all headings except the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in one numerical sequence irrespective of whether the material is taken on the floor of the House, is discussed at a Westminster Hall sitting, is a written statement or is a written question.
- References under the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business are listed in numerical sequence under the following headings-
  - *Chamber Debates* (which includes interventions and points of order as well as significant contributions to debates);
  - *Westminster Hall Debates* (covering all debates held as part of the Westminster Hall sittings);
  - *Written Statements* (consisting of ministerial statements issued in writing);
  - *Questions* (which includes all written, oral and urgent questions); and
  - *Petitions* (which includes all oral and written petitions).

A14
Suffolk 769w

Abbott, Ms Diane
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Youth Unemployment 404
Westminster Hall
Obesity 110wh, 122-7wh
Questions
Abortion, Northern Ireland 597w
Obesity, Health Services 616w

Abortion
Northern Ireland 597w

Abrahams, Debbie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 658
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404

Academies
Standards 673w

Accountancy
EU Law 143w, 369w

Adams, Nigel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 670
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 386-7, 406

Administration of Justice
Translation Services 544w

Adoption
39w, 284w, 542w
73wh

Advertising
Job Vacancies 104w, 533w, 771w

Affordable Housing
Disability 217w

Afghanistan
564, 568
Females 144w, 157w, 274w
Mortality Rates 275w
Peacekeeping Operations 28ws, 519w, 740w
Politics and Government 410w
Unmanned Air Vehicles 362w

Afriyie, Adam
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 131
M5 Motorway Accident 72
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Research 130w, 431w, 572w, 735-6w

Agricultural Wages Board
729w

Agriculture
Pay 220w

Agriculture and Fisheries Council
3ws, 29ws

Ainsworth, Rt Hon Mr Bob
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 658
Localism Bill 129
Middle East and North Africa 299
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Afghanistan 565
General Practitioners, Telephone Services 132w

Ainsworth, Rt Hon Mr Bob—continued
Strategic Defence and Security Review 163w

Air Pollution
597w

Air Travel Organisers' Licence
564w

Aircraft Carriers
229w, 741w

Airlines
Standards 565w

Airports
Weather 56w

Alcohol-related Antisocial Behaviour
10

Alcoholic Drinks
Misuse 236w, 315w
Prices 237w

Aldous, Peter
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 210wh
Questions
Engagements 281
Fisheries 734-5
VAT, Construction 185w

Alexander, Danny
Questions
Bank Services 181-2w
Devolution, Wales 625w
Growing Places Fund 183w
Population, Infrastructure 184-5w
Public Expenditure 340w
Public Sector Pensions 340w, 429w, 459w, 643w

Alexander, Heidi
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 658
Internet Regulation (Material Inciting Gang Violence) (08.11.2011) 167-9
Localism Bill 129
UK Border Force 57
Youth Unemployment 379, 404
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 140wh, 159-61wh, 177wh
Questions
Gangs 5
Women Offenders 442
Work Programme 216w

Alexander, Rt Hon Mr Douglas
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632
Localism Bill 129
Middle East and North Africa 291-4
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Adam Werritty 68w, 410w
Departmental Library 69w
European Union 639w, 767w, 790w
European Union, Legislative Competence 161w, 690w
Ministerial Meetings 162w
Sri Lanka 373w

Algeria
Christianity 68w, 157w

Ali, Rushanara
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 510-2
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 658
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Accountancy, EU Law 369w
Burma, Children 144w
Burma, Overseas Aid 145w, 275w
CDC 145w
CDC, Disclosure of Information 145-6w
Global Population 153w
HIV Infection 245w
HIV Infection, Greater London 245w
Horn of Africa, Famine 150-1w
Knife Crime 50w
Overseas Aid 152w
Overseas Aid, Developing Countries 153w
Palestinians, Prisoners 74w
Social Services, Fees and Charges 252w
Somalia, Armed Conflict 650w
Somalia, Cholera 154w
Somalia, Overseas Aid 154w
Topical Questions 160
Trade, Developing Countries 309w

Allen, Mr Graham
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Youth Unemployment 404

Ambulance Services
Warrington 597w, 804w

Ambulances
125w

American Football
84w

Amess, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 660
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Anti-Semitism 51w, 168w
Carers, Grandparents 199w, 414w, 541w
Civil Proceedings, Legal Costs 256w
Death, Pancreatic Cancer 114w
Driving Offences, Speed Limits 317w, 420w
Grandparents 288w, 415w
Pancreatic Cancer 137-8w
Tony Blair 271w

Ammunition
Storage 230w, 362w

Anderson, Mr David
Chamber Debates
G20 37
Localism Bill 129
Questions
Cancer 806w
Iron and Steel, Competition 378w
Licensing Laws, Olympic Games 2012 317w
Paramedical Staff 822w
Tax Avoidance 341w

Andrew, Stuart
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 131
Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail) 216
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Hate Crime 439

Andrew, Stuart—continued
NHS, Pensions 135-6w

Animal Experiments
166w, 330w
EU Law 167w, 418w
Imports 501w
Primates 167w

Animal Welfare
509w
Circuses 220w

Animals
Disease Control 4w, 10w

Anti-corruption
254w

Anti-semitism
51w, 168w, 709w

Antibiotic Action Initiative
812

Antisocial Behaviour
10, 51w
Internet 501w

Applied Language Solutions
544w

Apprentices
622w
Tees Valley 797w

Apprenticeships
313w

Approved Premises
Per Capita Costs 545w

Arbuthnot, Rt Hon Mr James
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 487-9, 513
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Afghanistan 565-6

Archaeological Sites
491w

Armed Forces
230w
Bullying 741w
Cadets 76w
Coroners 362w
Education 742w
Germany 230w
Housing 77w
Members 742w
Mental Health 78w
Pay 363w
Recruitment 78w
Redundancy 231w, 363w
Suicide 231w
Training 78w, 519w
Young People 79w

Armed Forces Personnel
468

Armoured Fighting Vehicles
364w

Arms Trade
Bahrain 799w
North Africa 427w

Art Works
England 492w

Arthritis
237w
Physiotherapy 598w

Arts
84w, 492w, 666w
Higher Education 459w
Taxation 397w
Teachers 284w

Arts Council England
85w, 667w

Ashworth, Jonathan
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 632-3, 658-9
Questions
Aviation, Security 186w, 311w
Bank Services, Sharia 704w
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 123w
Coroners 256w
Electricity Generation 347w
Fisheries 715, 723, 732
Hate Crime 401w

Astor of Hever, Lord
528w

Asylum
169w, 316w, 502w, 752w
Employment 170w
EU Countries 752w

Attendance Allowance
198w

Attorney-General
691, 123w, 192w, 311w, 530w, 672w

Audit Commission
330w

Austin, Ian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Business of the House 458
Education Bill 632, 658
Localism Bill 129
Middle East and North Africa 302
Youth Unemployment 384, 402, 404
Questions
Attendance Allowance 198w
Carer's Allowance 338w
Child Benefit 93w
Departmental Procurement 800w
Gangs 4
Housing Benefit 725w
Income Support 210w
Income Support, Lone Parents 210w, 441w
Jobcentre Plus, Manpower 444w
Official Hospitality 710w
Personal Income 327w
Topical Questions 433
Translation Services 438w
Unemployment 64w
Unemployment, Dudley 448w
Winter Fuel Payments 214w
Working Tax Credit, Older Workers 101w

Aviation
Alcoholic Drinks 186w, 769w
Baggage 565w
EU Action 186w
Security 56w, 186w, 311w
USA 187w

Aviation Industry
217wh

Aviation Safety
421

AWE
Radioactive Waste 364w

Baby Care Units
598w

Back Pain
238w

Backbench Business
137wh
213, 711

Bacon, Mr Richard
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Bahrain
Politics and Government 645w

Bail Accommodation and Support Service
545w

Bail and Accommodation Support Services
779w

Bailey, Mr Adrian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 658
Localism Bill 129
UK Border Force 60
Youth Unemployment 385-6, 404

Bain, Mr William
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 658
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Afghanistan 564-5
Chief Coroner 546w
Famine, International Co-operation 150w
Road Accidents 406w
Sovereignty 666w
The Union 272

***Baker, Norman**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Written Statements
Renewable Energy Directive 7-9ws
Questions
Advertising, Job Vacancies 771w
Biofuels 769-70w
Biofuels, EU Law 404w
Bus Services, Finance 311-2w
Buses, Inspections 187w
Consultants 566w
Cycling, Safety 187w
Departmental Fines 566w
Departmental Manpower 571w
Departmental Public Expenditure 572w
E-mail 577w
Electric Vehicles, Bedfordshire 187-8w
Freedom of Information Requests 566-7w
Government Procurement Card 577w
Great Western Railway Line, Overcrowding 312-3w
Internships 575-6w
Invalid Vehicles 772-3w
Invalid Vehicles, Accidents 188w, 578w
Invalid Vehicles, Eyesight 578w, 773w
Legal Opinion, Costs 568-71w
Lost Property 571w
Metal Theft 188w, 405w
NDPBs, Manpower 579w
Piers, Redcar and Cleveland 579w
Procurement 56w
Public Employee Bids 572-3w
Public Sector, Bonuses 567-8w
Public Sector, Pay 572w
Railway Stations 421-3
Research 572w
Road Maintenance 431

Baker, Norman—continued
Road Signs and Markings 191w
Roads, Snow and Ice 580w
Rural Bus Services 428
Secondary Legislation 573w
Security Vetting 573-4w
Social Enterprises 59-60w
Telephone Helplines 574-5w
Third Sector 778w
Topical Questions 435-7
Traffic Lights, Safety 406w
Train Punctuality 429-31
Transport, Capital Investment 580w
Travel, Concessions 779w
Written Questions 576-7w

Baker, Steve
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Economic and Monetary Union 649w
Topical Questions 160

Baldry, Tony
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Border Control Scheme 702
Education Bill 633
G20 38
Localism Bill 131
Points of Order 165
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 154-9wh
Questions
Lay Magistrates 155-6
Police Forces (Collaboration) 6-7

Baldwin, Harriett
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 208-9
Education Bill 633, 660
G20 39
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Business Start-ups 437
Police Forces (Collaboration) 6-7

Balkans
686w

Balls, Rt Hon Ed
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 658
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404

Bank Account Fraud
241wh

Bank Services
181w
Sharia 704w

Banking Act 2009 Reporting
33ws

Bankruptcy and Company Winding Up
1ws

Banks
Finance 92w
Loans 293w

Banks, Gordon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 658-9
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404

Banks, Gordon—continued
Questions
Directors, Disqualification 462w
Engagements 280

Barclay, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Probation Officers 151-2

Barker, Gregory
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Adam Werritty 263w
Biofuels, Electricity 1w
Biofuels, Timber 1w
Carbon 406-7w
Carbon Emissions, Pilot Schemes 263w
Charities 343-4w
Combined Heat and Power, Social Rented Housing 263-4w
Departmental Judicial Review 787w
Departmental Public Expenditure 787w
Design Services 582-1w
Energy, British Overseas Territories 407w
Energy, Mobile Homes 788-9w
Energy Prices 2w, 407w, 584w
Energy, Unsolicited Goods and Services 584w
European Union 790w
Feed-in Tariffs, Business 348w
Feed-in Tariffs, Housing 264-5w
Feed-in Tarrifs, Renewable Energy 348w
Freedom of Information Requests 786-7w
Fuel Poverty 407w, 584-5w, 790-1w
Fuel Poverty, Greater London 408-9w
Fuel Poverty, Pensioners 409w
Green Deal Scheme 409w, 791w
Ministerial Meetings 1-2w
Pensioners, Fuel Poverty 266-7w
Public Sector Employee Bids 264w
Renewable Energy, Employment 793-4w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 2-3w, 587-9w, 795-6w
Renewable Energy, Heating 267w
Solar Power 267w, 349w, 591w, 796w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 3-4w, 267-70w, 409-10w, 592-5w, 797-8w
Telephone Helplines 344-5w
Tidal Power 798w
Warm Front Scheme, St Helens 798-6w
Warm Home Discount Scheme 349w
Written Questions 345-7w

Barnett Formula
509w

Baron, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 178-9
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 183-9wh, 200wh, 204-6wh
Questions
Dartford Crossing Charges 425
Family Migration Route 8
Members, Correspondence 762w

Barron, Rt Hon Mr Kevin
Chamber Debates
Antibiotic Action Initiative 812
Border Checks Summer 2011 361

Barron, Rt Hon Mr Kevin—continued
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Orphan Drugs 821w

Barwell, Gavin
Chamber Debates
Business of the House 465
Education Bill 660
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Topical Questions 434

Basement Developments
63wh

Basic Skills
101w

Battle of Waterloo
Bicentenary 364w

Bayley, Hugh
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Anti-corruption 254w
GPT, Saudi Arabia 311w
Topical Questions 163

Bebb, Guto
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 394-6, 406
Questions
Criminal Records, Databases 172w

Beckett, Rt Hon Margaret
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Topical Questions 435

Begg, Dame Anne
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission 553w
Rare Diseases 140w
Universal Credit 213-4w

Beith, Rt Hon Sir Alan
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 131
Westminster Hall
Planning Guidance (Northumberland) 248-52wh, 254wh
Questions
European Court of Human Rights 695
Legal Aid (Social Welfare) 144

Bell Pottinger Group
331w, 342w, 400w, 402w, 452w, 491w, 493w, 497w, 520w, 530-1w, 546w, 599w, 632w, 686w, 695w, 709w, 784w

Bell, Sir Stuart
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
G20 36
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Engagements 286

Bellingham, Mr Henry
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 633, 660
Questions
British Overseas Territories 158w
British Overseas Territories, Biodiversity 647w
Democratic Republic of Congo 687-8w
Democratic Republic of Congo, Elections 688-9w
Democratic Republic of Congo, Politics and Government 689-90w
IRG 372w
Kenya, Kidnapping 649w
Office of UK Permanent Representative to EU, Manpower 163w
Somalia, Armed Conflict 650-1w
South Sudan 694w
Sudan 411-2w
Sudan, Foreign Investment 651w
Turks and Caicos Islands, Prosecutions 651-3w

Benefits Expenditure
437w

Benn, Hilary
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 669
Localism Bill 95, 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Affordable Housing, Disability 217w
Audit Commission 330w
Care Homes 807-8w
Domestic Waste, Waste Collection 654w
Fair Communities Scheme 655w
Housing 700w
Housing Benefit 334w
Housing Benefit, Foster Care 335w
Housing, Visual Impairment 219w
Local Government 658w
Sleeping Rough 337w
Social Rented Housing 337w
Voluntary Organisations, Finance 704w

Benton, Mr Joe
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404

Benyon, Richard, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 633-4, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Written Statements
Marine Conservation Zones 35-7ws
Questions
Adam Werritty 220w, 729w
Biodiversity 730w
Birds of Prey 730w
Broadband 221-2w
Charities 731w
Coastal Areas, Access 329w
Cocklers 732-3w
Common Land 222w
Consultants 734w
Departmental Billing 222w
Departmental Lost Property 7w
Departmental Manpower 222w
E-mail 224w
Environment Protection, Local Authorities 736w
Fisheries 738-42, 224-5w
Fisheries, Quotas 225w
Fisheries, Ribble Estuary 737w

Benyon, Richard—continued
Fisheries, Statistics 225-6w
Floods, Insurance 226w
Hunting, Wild Boar 398w
Japanese Knotweed 329-30w
Legal Opinion 9-10w
Lighting 10w
Manpower 734w
Nature Conservation 738w
Parliamentary Questions 734w
Procurement 735w
Recycling, Glass 739w
Research 736w
Reservoirs, Safety 398w
Security Vetting 223-4w
Sites of Special Scientific Interest 739w
Telephone Helplines 7-9w
Travel, Costs 733-4w
UN Convention, Watercourses 740w
Water Abstraction 398-9w
Water Pollution 227w
Written Questions 736w

Beresford, Sir Paul
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Electoral Registration 680
Skin Cancer 252w, 274w

Berger, Luciana
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Free Fruit for Young Children 409
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Advertising, Job Vacancies 104w, 533w, 771w
Carbon Emissions, Pilot Schemes 263w
Departmental Travel 260w, 302w
Energy Prices 2w
Green Construction Board 465w
Green Deal Scheme 585w, 791w, 801w
Green Investment Bank 98w, 801w
Individual Savings Accounts, Environment Protection 428w
Internships 15-6w, 29w, 72w, 82w, 86w, 96w, 130w, 272w, 302w, 439w, 575w
Pupils, Disadvantaged 683w
Solar Power 591w, 802w
Travel, Costs 534w

Berry, Jake
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 340, 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Betting Shops
Licensing 17w

Betts, Mr Clive
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 87, 125, 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Equitable Life Assurance Society, Compensation 639w
Social Security Benefits, Tribunals 783w
Voter Registration 763w

Big Society Capital
271w

Bingham, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 193

Bingham, Andrew—continued
Fuel Prices 774-6
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Obesity 117wh, 119-22wh, 124wh

Binley, Mr Brian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 181-2
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Business, Surveys 102w, 293-4w
Gas Fired Power Stations 791w
Generation Capacity 265w

Biodiversity
729w

Biofuels
92w, 769w
Electricity 1w
EU Law 403w
Timber 1w

Biology
Graduates 621w

Birds of Prey
730w

Birmingham Prison
26w

Birth and Bereavement Service
30ws

Birtwistle, Gordon
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131

Blackman, Bob
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Border Control Scheme 705
Business of the House 466
Education Bill 634, 660
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 449
Localism Bill 95-6, 106-8, 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Blackman-Woods, Roberta
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Business of the House 456
Localism Bill 118, 125-6, 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Planning Permission 662w, 703w
Planning System 336w
Social Rented Housing 664w
Social Rented Housing, Planning Permission 400w

Blackwood, Nicola
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 335-7, 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 52
Questions
Antisocial Behaviour 10, 51w

Blair, Rt Hon Tony
271w

Blaydon Races 150th Anniversary
410

Blears, Hazel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129

Blears, Hazel—continued
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Engagements 284
Topical Questions 21

Blenkinsop, Tom
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 777, 787, 793-5, 811-0
Guisborough Royal Mail delivery Office 409-10
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 450
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Co-operatives 453w
Council Tax 695w
Fuel Poverty, Students 585w
Growing Places Fund 182w
Higher Education, Admissions 109w
Local Government, Internet 22w
Mobile Telephone Coverage 322w
Parishes, Expenditure 336w
Piers, Redcar and Cleveland 579w
Student Loans Company 113w

Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link
208wh

Blomfield, Paul
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
UK Border Force 59
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Higher Education, Private Sector 628w

Blood
Merseyside 805w

Blunkett, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 319, 325, 332-1, 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
UK Border Force 50
Youth Unemployment 404

Blunt, Mr Crispin, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Administration of Justice, Translation Services 544w
Applied Language Solutions 545w
Approved Premises, Per Capita Costs 545w
Bail Accommodation and Support Service 545-6w
Bail and Accommodation Support Services 779w
Birmingham Prison 26w
Civil Disorder 256w
Community Orders, Per Capita Costs 384-5w
Community Orders, Voluntary Organisations 423w
Corporate Manslaughter 157
Crimes of Violence, Sentencing 423-4w
Criminal Proceedings, Translation Services 548w
Cyber-crime, Convictions 424w
Dangerous Dogs, Prosecutions 548-9w
Dogs Act 1871 29-30w
Domestic Violence (Victim Support) 439-40

Blunt, Mr Crispin—continued
East Sutton Park Prison, Discipline 389w
Extradition 260-1w
Harassment, Offenders 781-2w
Harassment, Victim Support Schemes 782w
Knives, Crime 30-1w
Major Projects Authority 326w
Metal Theft 36w
Offenders, Ex-servicemen 33w
Offenders, Rehabilitation 34w
Offensive Weapons, Offences 551-2w
Older Workers 780w
Overseas Terrorism 157-8
Payment by Results 154
Prison Sentences 425-6w
Prison Sentences, Human Rights 390w
Prison Work 254w
Prisoners, Ex-servicemen 552w
Prisoners, Foreign Nationals 262w
Prisoners, Location 390-1w
Prisoners, Per Capita Costs 391-2w, 426-7w
Prisons, Conditions of Employment 392-3w
Prisons, Construction 782-3w
Prisons, Discipline 393w
Prisons, Private Sector 34w, 262w
Probation Officers 151-2
Public Sector, Misconduct 393-4w
Public Sector, Pay 385-9w
Remand in Custody 783w
Reoffenders 34-5w, 394w
Restorative Justice 35w
Sentencing 394w
Sexual Offences, Crime Prevention 552-3w
Sexual Offences, Rehabilitation 394-5w
Stalking, Harassment 784w
Terrorism, British Nationals Abroad 35w
Terrorism, Compensation 784w
Topical Questions 159-64
Translation Services, Public Expenditure 396w
Women Offenders 442
Young Offender Institutions 145
Young Offenders 396w
Young Offenders, Drugs and Alcohol 254w

Boles, Nick
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Middle East and North Africa 298
Youth Unemployment 406

Bone, Mr Peter
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 453-5
Education Bill 634, 660
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 184, 189-90, 193
G20 37
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 449
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 53
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 165wh
Questions
American Football 84w
Departmental Administrative Costs 270-1
Human Trafficking 54w
Iran 749w
Ministers, Equality 401w
Prisoners, Foreign Nationals 262w

Border Checks Summer 2011
311

Border Control Scheme
699

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Politics and Government 646w

Bottomley, Sir Peter
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634
Localism Bill 131
M5 Motorway Accident 73
Questions
NHS, Disclosure of Information 819-20w
NHS, Employment Tribunals Service 820w

Bovine Tuberculosis
Disease Control 4w, 221w, 509w, 730w

Bowel Cancer
Drugs 350w

Bradford-on-Avon Station Ticket Office
409

Bradley, Karen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 464
G20 43
Localism Bill 131
M5 Motorway Accident 74
Youth Unemployment 406

Bradshaw, Mr Ben
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
M5 Motorway Accident 66
Middle East and North Africa 296
Youth Unemployment 404
Westminster Hall
Primary Care (Devon and the South-West) 48-54wh

Brady, Mr Graham
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
King George Hospital 9wh
Questions
Entry Clearances 503w
Health Services, Overseas Visitors 610w

Brake, Tom
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 332-4, 363
Border Control Scheme 702
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 51
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Gang Injunctions 694
Gangs 5
Restorative Justice 35w
Sign Language 89w, 324w
Topical Questions 163
Victim Support 147
Women Offenders 442
Young Offenders 396w

Bray, Angie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 460
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 368

Bray, Angie—continued
Questions
Housing, Construction 22w
Population, Infrastructure 184w

Brazier, Mr Julian
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 470, 474, 486, 488, 492-5
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
G20 42
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 58
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Defence Manufacturing 570

Brazil
UN Conference on Environment and Development 500w

Breast Cancer
Screening 238w, 806w

Brennan, Kevin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Business of the House 458-9
Education Bill 583-4, 586, 588-9, 592-602, 604, 610, 628, 631-2, 656, 659
Point of Order 467
Points of Order 307
Youth Unemployment 404
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 24-5wh, 29wh, 32wh, 37-42wh, 44-5wh
Questions
Electoral Register 681-2
English Baccalaureate 44w
Free Schools 287w
Reoffending 151
Scottish Independence 269-70
Topical Questions 687

Bribery and Corruption
692

Bridgen, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 341, 348, 363
Education Bill 634, 660
G20 42
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
Neurology 600w

Brine, Steve
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Credit, Foreign Nationals 531w
Planning Permission 703w
Reoffending 148
Speed Limits 777w

British Chambers of Commerce Survey
374w

British Nationals Abroad
Arrests 686w
Criminal Proceedings 687w
Elections 373w

British Overseas Territories
158w
Biodiversity 647w

British Virgin Islands
Elections 370w

Broadband
221w, 319w
Wales 397w

Brokenshire, James, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Alcohol-related Antisocial Behaviour 10-1
Alcoholic Drinks, Misuse 315-6w
Antisocial Behaviour 10, 51w
Antisocial Behaviour, Internet 501-2w
Cannabis 52w
Capabilities Programme 503w
Crime, Rural Areas 172w
Crimes of Violence, Nightclubs 316-7w
Cyber-Crime 418-9w
Dangerous Dogs 419w
Driving Offences, Speed Limits 317w
EU Law 504w
Financial Services 504w
Firearms, Licensing 504w
Forensic Science Service 53w
Knives, Crime 506-7w
Licensing Act 2003 507w
Licensing Laws, Olympic Games 2012 317w
Members, Correspondence 54-5w
Metal Theft 378w
Nature Conservation, Crime 55w
Riot Control Weapons 179w
Sexual Violence 318w
Theft, Large Goods Vehicles 508w
Theft, Retail Trade 508w
Topical Questions 18-20, 22
Young Offenders, Wales 55-6w

Brooke, Annette
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 102-3, 127, 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Child Protection 677w
Developing Countries, Teachers 277w
Disability, Young People 241-2w
Engagements 283
Local Government Services 682w
Tuberculosis 143w

Brown, Lyn
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Ethnic Groups, Treaties 411w
New Schools Network 45w
UNUM Ltd 450w

Brown, Mr Russell
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 539-42
Border Checks Summer 2011 358, 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 755-7
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Construction Sector 267
Drummore Harbour, Land 82w
EU Operational Headquarters 562

Brown, Rt Hon Mr Gordon
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 129

Brown, Rt Hon Mr Nicholas
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
EU Aid 72w
Job Creation 378w
Public Sector, Misconduct 393w
Speech and Language Disorders, Health Services 253w

Browne, Mr Jeremy, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Yemen 262-6
Youth Unemployment 406
Written Statements
UK Relations with Colombia 37-9ws
Questions
British Virgin Islands, Elections 370w
Central America 647w
Central America, Storms 647w
China, Elections 647-8w
Departmental Pay 70w
Ethnic Groups, Treaties 411w
India, British Nationals Abroad 73-4w
Internships 72w
Kenya, Human Rights 372-3w
Nicaragua 650w
Nicaragua, Storms 650w
Nigeria, Human Rights 74w
Non-departmental Public Bodies 70w
North Korea, Crimes against Humanity 693w
North Korea, Human Rights 693-4w
North Korea, Prisons 694w
Telephone Helplines 71-2w
UNESCO, Finance 75w

Bruce, Fiona
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Fuel Prices 771-2
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 139wh, 142wh
Questions
Foreign HGV Drivers 429
Music, Education 45w
North Korea, Crimes against Humanity 693w
North Korea, Human Rights 693w
North Korea, Prisons 694w
Olympic Games 2012, Newspaper Press 193w

Bruce, Rt Hon Malcolm
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131

Bryant, Chris
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 319, 344-5, 354-7, 360-1
Education Bill 659
Points of Order 579
UK Border Force 52
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Conditional Fee Arrangements 255w
UK Border Agency 13

Buck, Ms Karen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404

Buck, Ms Karen—continued
Westminster Hall
Basement Developments 63-71wh

Buckingham, Tony
651w

Buckland, Mr Robert
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Housing 399w
Metal Theft 35w
Restorative Justice 156
Transport, Infrastructure 778w

Building Regulations
654w
Water Supply 654w

Burden, Richard
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Middle East and North Africa 299
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Yemen 637w, 653w

Burley, Mr Aidan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Points of Order 579
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Topical Questions 161

Burma
Children 144w
Overseas Aid 144w, 275w, 633w, 751w

Burnham, Rt Hon Andy
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404

***Burns, Rt Hon Mr Simon**, Minister of State, Department of Health*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 443-51
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
King George Hospital 5-6wh, 11wh, 14wh, 18-22wh
Obesity 110wh, 121wh, 124wh, 126-9wh
Written Statements
Parliamentary Written Question (Correction) 17-6ws
Questions
Adam Werritty 236w
Alcoholic Drinks, Misuse 237w
Ambulance Services, Warrington 597-8w, 804-5w
Ambulances 125w
Baby Care Units 598w
Bell Pottinger Group 599-600w
Blood, Merseyside 805-6w
Bowel Cancer, Drugs 350-1w
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, Neurology 600w
Capabilities Programme 352-3w, 479-80w
Cardiovascular System, Diseases 351w
Cataracts, Older People 478w
Cataracts, Waiting Lists 478-9w
Climate Change 804w
Clinical Commissioning Groups 601-2w
Consultants 603w
Cystic Fibrosis 809-10w
Dental Services 602-3w

Burns, Rt Hon Mr Simon—continued
Dental Services, Schools 126w
Departmental Food 811w
Departmental Website 604w
Design Services 810-1w
Diabetes 811w
Diabetes, Nurses 607w
Dialysis Machines 482w
Disability, Children 812w
Doctors, Pay 813-4w
Drinks, Regulation 353w
Drugs 608w
Equal Opportunities 603w
Flags 603-4w
Freedom of Information Requests 240-1w
General Practitioners 132w
General Practitioners, Essex 353w
General Practitioners, Finance 243w, 353-4w
General Practitioners, Telephone Services 132-3w
Hair Dyes, Chemicals 133w
Health Care Incentives 354w
Health Inequality 243w
Health Professions 244w
Health Services, North-west England 355w
Health Services, Older People 134w
Health Services, Overseas Visitors 610w
Heart Diseases, Ethnic Groups 815-6w
Heart Diseases, Health Services 610w
HIV Infection 245w
HIV Infection, Greater London 245-6w
Hospitals, Consultants 611w
Hospitals, Eggs 246w
Hospitals, Hygiene 611-2w
Hospitals, Waiting Lists 246-7w
Incontinence, Health Services 483-4w
Injuries, Dog Attacks 612-3w
Internships 130-1w
James Paget Hospital, Sick Leave 816w
Legal Opinion 126-8w
Locums 484w
Lost Property 241w
Medical Equipment 484-5w
Medical Treatments, VAT 248-9w
Medicine, Higher Education 486w
Medicine, Prices 817w
Mental Health Services, Ex-servicemen 613-4w
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust, Complaints 818-9w
NDPBs 128-7w
NHS 486w, 614-5w, 819w
NHS, Disclosure of Information 819-20w
NHS, Employment Tribunals Service 820w
NHS, Finance 615w
NHS, Information and Communications Technology 486w
NHS Land 355-6w
NHS, Manpower 615w
NHS, Medical Landing Flights 135w
NHS, Pay 486-7w, 615w
NHS, Pensions 135-7w, 250-49w, 615-6w, 820-1w
NHS, Private Patients 356w
NHS, Private Sector 250-1w
NHS Property 356-7w
NHS Reorganisation 137w
NHS, Solar Power 821w
NHS, Waiting Lists 616w
Older Workers 604w
Orphan Drugs 822w
Paramedical Staff 822w
Patients, Transport 357w
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Finance 139w
Prescription Drugs 139w, 618w
Prescription Drugs, Costs 357w

Burns, Rt Hon Mr Simon—continued
Prescription Drugs, Prices 488w
Press Releases 604w
Primary Care Trusts 488w
Primary Care Trusts, Per Capita Costs 251-2w
Prosthetics, Ex-servicemen 618w
Public Sector, Pay 129-30w
Radiotherapy 489-90w
Rare Diseases 140w
Research 130w
St Helens and Whiston NHS Hospital Trust 253-4w
Secondary Legislation 127-9w
Skin Cancer, Drugs 141w, 358w
Skin Cancer, Young People 359w
Speech and Language 359-60w
Strokes 824w
Surgery, Manpower 490w
Surgery, Warrington 490w
Vitamin D 360-1w
Written Questions 480-1w

Burrowes, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 320, 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Burma, Overseas Aid 633w, 751w

***Burstow, Paul**, Minister of State, Department of Health*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 660
Localism Bill 131
Patient Security (Mental Health System) 139-42
Woodhaven Hospital 553-6
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Organ Donation 102-5wh
Primary Care (Devon and the South-West) 51-4wh
Social Care Funding 155wh, 175-81wh
Written Statements
Opportunities for Volunteering (Legacy Report) 24-5ws
Questions
Arthritis 237-8w
Arthritis, Physiotherapy 598w
Back Pain 238w
Breast Cancer, Screening 238w, 806w
Cancer 806-7w
Care Homes 125w, 807-9w
Carers' Benefits, Suffolk 125-6w
Charities 352w
Dementia, Research 810w
Diabetes 605-6w
Diabetes, Admissions 606-7w
Disability, Young People 242-3w
Health Care Incentives 354-5w
Health Services, Older People 133-4w, 608w
Hospital Beds 246w
Hydration, Hospitals 483w
Learning Disability 247-8w
Malnutrition 355w
Mental Health 818w
Ministerial Meetings 241w
Older People, Carers 251w
Palliative Care 487w
Palliative Care, Finance 617-8w
Pancreatic Cancer 138-9w
Prostate Cancer, Health Services 140w, 358w
Radiotherapy 488-9w, 619w
Red Cross 619w
Skin Cancer 252w, 620w
Skin Cancer, Cornwall 140-1w
Social Services, Fees and Charges 253w

Burstow, Paul—continued
Southern Cross Healthcare 141-3w

Burt, Alistair
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
Questions
Afghanistan, Females 157w
Afghanistan, Politics and Government 410w
Algeria, Christianity 68w, 158w
Bahrain, Politics and Government 645-6w
British Nationals Abroad, Arrests 686-7w
British Nationals Abroad, Criminal Proceedings 687w
Cluster Munitions, International Co-operation 648w
Iran, Baha'i Faith 161-2w
Iran, Human Rights 372w
Israel, Embassies 690-1w
Libya, Human Rights 650w
Middle East, Armed Conflict 162-3w, 692-3w
Middle East, Reconciliation 693w
Ministerial Meetings 162w
Palestinians, Prisoners 74w
Palestinians, UNESCO 74-5w
Sri Lanka 163w
Yemen 653-4w
Yemen, Politics and Government 164-5w

Burt, Lorely
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 371, 392-3, 406
Questions
Business Start-ups 438
Succession to the Throne 679

Bus Services
Finance 311w

Buses
Inspections 187w

Business
Employment Tribunals 102w
Entry Clearances 102w, 459w
Loans 92w
Regulation 460w
Surveys 102w, 293w

Business Advisory Council
510w

Business before Questions
143, 557, 677

Business, Innovation and Skills
1ws, 101w, 293w, 374w, 459w, 622w, 797w

Business of the House
452

Business Start-ups
437

Business without Debate
133, 257, 408, 662

Businesses
Economic Environment 313w

Byles, Dan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail) 216
Youth Unemployment 406

Byrne, Rt Hon Mr Liam
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 366-78, 380, 383, 395, 402-4
Questions
Benefits Expenditure 437w
Departmental Manpower 436w
Departmental Public Expenditure 719w
Employment Schemes 440w
Employment Schemes, Contracts 324w
Employment Schemes, Young People 207-8w
Innovation Fund, Young People 443w
Jobcentre Plus 443w
Major Projects Authority 326w
Marketing 436w
Ministerial Policy Advisers 445w
New Deal Schemes, Contracts 445w
Pensions, Females 727w
Social Security Benefits 446w, 728w
Tax Credit 213w
Unemployment, Young People 119w
Universal Credit 449w
Welfare Tax Credits, Eligibility 185-6w
Work Programme 215w

Cabinet Committees
Third Sector 270w

Cabinet Office
16ws, 19ws, 114w, 271w, 350w, 452w, 533w, 765w

Cable, Rt Hon Vince
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Data Protection 104w

Cairns, Alun
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Organ Donation 101wh
Questions
Business, Employment Tribunals 102w
Entry Clearances 53w
Mobile Phones 86w
Police Authority Funding 17
Police, Finance 422w
Prison Sentences 425w
Topical Questions 162

***Cameron, Rt Hon David,** The Prime Minister*
Chamber Debates
G20 23-5, 27-43
Written Statements
Consolidated Guidance on Detainees (Update) 25-6ws
Questions
Brazil, UN Conference on Environment and Development 501w
Cabinet Committees, Third Sector 271w
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 123w
Dangerous Dogs 501w
Engagements 276-86
Euro Summit 401-2w
Lord Young of Graffham 124w
Members, Correspondence 673w
Members, Surveillance 501w
Ministerial Policy Advisers 125w
Ministerial Policy Advisers, Manpower 673w
Public Appointments 271w
Surviving Winter Appeal 282

Cameron, Rt Hon David—continued
Written Questions 501w

Campbell, Mr Alan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 446
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404

Campbell, Mr Gregory
Westminster Hall
Obesity 106-9wh
Questions
Algeria, Christianity 157w
China, Elections 647w
Community Relations 18w
Engagements 281
Personal Savings 99w

Campbell, Mr Ronnie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632
G20 38
Youth Unemployment 404

Campbell, Rt Hon Sir Menzies
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Middle East and North Africa 297
Questions
Armed Forces, Germany 230w
European Fighter Aircraft 82w
Extradition 692
RAF Leuchars 234-5w
RAF Lossiemouth, European Fighter Aircraft 368w
The Union 272
Topical Questions 576

Cancer
806w
Wigs 807w

Cannabis
51w
Mental Illness 600w

Capabilities Programme
332w, 352w, 479w, 502w, 787w

Caravans
Testing 770w

Carbon
406w

Carbon Capture and Storage
274

Carbon Emissions
397w
Pilot Schemes 263w

Carbon Sequestration
785w
Longannet 580w, 785w

Cardiovascular System
Diseases 351w

Care Homes
125w, 807w

Care to Learn Programme
674w

Carer's Allowance
338w

Carers
Employment 238w
Grandparents 199w, 414w, 541w

Carers' Benefits
Suffolk 125w

Carmichael, Neil
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 465
Education Bill 614-6, 634, 655, 657, 660
Fuel Prices 744, 746-7
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 380-1, 383, 406
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 186wh, 199-201wh
Social Care Funding 139wh, 147-50wh
Questions
School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme 416w

Carmichael, Rt Hon Mr Alistair
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Carswell, Mr Douglas
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
G20 33
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 57
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 185wh, 192wh, 199-200wh, 206wh
Questions
Forced Marriages and Honour Killings 438
Military Aircraft, Helicopters 414w

Cash, Mr William
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 457
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 196, 199, 201-9
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 172, 174, 180, 183-5, 194
G20 30
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 196-8wh, 200wh
Questions
Engagements 286
Euro Summit 401-2w

Cataracts
Older People 478w
Waiting Lists 478w

Caton, Martin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Cluster Munitions 412-6, 419
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 189wh, 201wh, 206wh

Cats
Electric Shock Equipment 731w

CDC
145w
Disclosure of Information 145w

Census
Guernsey 255w

Central America
647w
Storms 647w, 752w

Change4Life
809w

Channel Islands
26w

Chapman, Mrs Jenny
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404
Questions
Reoffending 148

Charities
10w, 18w, 68w, 114w, 171w, 194w, 255w, 271w, 295w, 319w, 339w, 343w, 351w, 402w, 731w
Hospices 765w

Chief Coroner
557, 423w, 546w

Chief Scientific Adviser
319w, 565w, 623w

Child Benefit
93w

Child Care Vouchers
638w

Child Maintenance
199w

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission
199w, 324w, 553w

Child Protection
677w

Child Support Agency
553w

Child Tax Credit
638w

Children
Day Care 714w

Children in Care
42w

Children's Centres
678w
Closures 415w

China
Elections 647w

Chishti, Rehman
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 462
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Immigrants, Families 550w
Topical Questions 160
Winter Resilience 427

Chope, Mr Christopher
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 455
Education Bill 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 186wh, 194-6wh
Questions
Kosovo, Borders 691w
Kosovo, Peacekeeping Operations 692w
Loans, Republic of Ireland 339w
Local Government Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 22w

Circuses
731w

Civil Contingencies Secretariat
Finance 452w

Civil Disorder
52w, 171w, 255w

Civil Nuclear Constabulary
581w

Civil Proceedings
Legal Costs 256w

Civil Servants
European Union 114w
Pensions 533w
Redundancy 533w
Secondment 452w

Clappison, Mr James
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 327-30, 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 50
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Rehabilitation 154

Clark, Greg, Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Communities and Local Government
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 77, 81, 90-1, 114-5, 121-5, 128-9, 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Community Relations 18w
Economic Growth, Liverpool 654-5w
Enterprise Zones 21-2w
Enterprise Zones, Scotland 655w
Local Enterprise Partnerships, Wiltshire 658w
Local Enterprise Partnerships, Worcestershire 22w
Local Government 658-9w
Planning Permission 661-3w
Planning Permission, Milton Keynes 24w
Planning, Skipton 24w
Regeneration, Liverpool 664w

Clark, Katy
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 397, 404
Questions
Afghanistan, Females 144w, 157w, 274-5w
Afghanistan, Mortality Rates 275w
Afghanistan, Politics and Government 410w
Arms Trade, Bahrain 799w
Aviation Safety 421
Convictions, Industrial Health and Safety 192w
Corporate Manslaughter 157
Defence Munitions, Beith 518w
Enterprise Zones, Scotland 655w
Fisheries 275, 716-7
Homelessness, Ex-servicemen 656w
Mental Health Services, Ex-servicemen 613w
Middle East, Armed Conflict 162w
Public Sector Pensions 459w
Stalking, Harassment 784w
Taxation, Amusement Arcades 185w
Topical Questions 22
Wind Power 338w
Wind Power, Planning Permission 597w

***Clarke, Mr Kenneth,** Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Questions
Adam Werritty 26w, 384w
Anti-corruption 254w
Bell Pottinger Group 546w
Census, Guernsey 255w
Channel Islands 26-7w
Departmental Assets 256-7w
Departmental Manpower 27w
Departmental Public Expenditure 260w
Departmental Responsibilities 27-9w
Departmental Travel 260w
Immigrants, Families 550w
Indeterminate Sentences 153
Internships 29w
Knife Crime 152-3
Lay Magistrates 156
Legal Aid (Social Welfare) 143-5
Members, Correspondence 262w
Parliamentary Questions 424w
Pensions, Misrepresentation 552w
Prison Population 149-50
Sark 552w
Topical Questions 158-64
Victim Support 146-7
Written Questions 424-5w

Clarke, Rt Hon Mr Tom
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 772-4, 808
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 404

Class Sizes
42w

***Clegg, Rt Hon Mr Nick,** The Deputy Prime Minister*
Questions
Bell Pottinger Group 531w
Coalition Agreement 681
Devolution 765w
Electoral Registration 677-8, 682-3
Lobbying 122w
News International 765w
Parliamentary Scrutiny 533w
Political Party Funding 683-4
Succession to the Throne 679-80, 765w
Topical Questions 684-91
Voter Registration 764w

Clifton-Brown, Geoffrey
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Metal Theft 378w
Metals, VAT 341-2w

Climate Change
804w

Clinical Commissioning Groups
601w

Cluster Munitions
412
International Co-operation 648w

Clwyd, Rt Hon Ann
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Middle East and North Africa 303
Youth Unemployment 404-5

Co-operatives
453w

Coaker, Vernon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Local Government, Pensions 23w

Coalition Agreement
681

Coastal Areas
Access 329w

Cocklers
732w

Coffey, Ann
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Adoption 73wh, 80-1wh

Coffey, Dr Thérèse
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 375, 406
Questions
A14, Suffolk 769w
Housing Benefit, Rural Areas 725w
Shipping, Oil 58-9w

Collins, Damian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Fuel Prices 754, 764
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Child Care Vouchers 638w

Colvile, Oliver
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 475, 517-20
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
M5 Motorway Accident 69
Questions
Common and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 103w
Fisheries 727-8
Prostate Cancer, Health Services 357w
Terms of Business Agreement 561

Combined Heat and Power
Social Rented Housing 263w

Commission on Devolution in Wales
510w

Committees
134

Commodity Markets
Food 93w

Common and Leasehold Reform Act 2002
103w

Common Land
222w

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
123w

Communication
710w

Communities and Local Government
9ws, 27ws, 17w, 217w, 330w, 399w, 654w, 694w

Community Orders
Per Capita Costs 384w
Voluntary Organisations 423w

Community Relations
18w

Company Accounts
295w

Company Liquidations
295w

Conditional Fee Arrangements
255w

Conditions of Employment
460w, 800w

Connarty, Michael
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Topical Questions 160, 684

Consolidated Guidance on Detainees (Update)
25ws

Construction
103w
Jarrow 201w, 434w
Self-employed 296w

Construction Sector
267

Consultants
11w, 43w, 172w, 310w, 369w, 531w, 566w, 603w, 696w, 734w, 746w

Contracts
JCB 458w

Convictions
Industrial Health and Safety 192w

Cooper, Rosie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 787-8
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Channel Islands 26w
Cremation 547w
Dialysis Machines 481-2w
Dietary Supplements, Channel Islands 131w
General Practitioners 132w
Hospitals, Consultants 611w
Medical Treatments, VAT 248w
NHS, Pay 615w
Prostate Cancer, Health Services 139w
VAT, Medical Treatments 100w

Cooper, Yvette
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 311-8, 322-3, 358-9, 361
Border Control Scheme 699-700
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
UK Border Force 46-8
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Domestic Violence (Victim Support) 440
Topical Questions 17-8

Corbyn, Jeremy
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 632, 659
G20 35
Localism Bill 129
UK Border Force 54

Corbyn, Jeremy—continued
Questions
Adam Werritty 518w
European Court of Human Rights 695
Indeterminate Sentences 153
Libya, Human Rights 649w

Coroners
256w, 546w

Corporate Boards (Female Representation)
440

Corporate Manslaughter
157

Cost of Motor Insurance
218

Council Tax
695w
27ws
Swindon 18w, 93w

Counter-terrorism
Research 520w

Counterfeit Manufacturing
Trade Agreements 103w

Courts
Victims 530w

Cox, Mr Geoffrey
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Diesel Fuel, Agriculture 97w
Local Government, Maladministration 335w
Strokes 824w

Crabb, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Crausby, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
British Virgin Islands, Elections 370w
VAT, Sports 430w

Creagh, Mary
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Points of Order 165-6
Questions
Adam Werritty 220w
Carbon Emissions 397w
Coastal Areas, Access 329w
Floods, Insurance 226w

Creasy, Stella
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 514-7
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Knife Crime 6
Private Finance Initiative 233w
Topical Questions 576

Creative Industries
710w

Creative Industries Council
493w

Credit
Foreign Nationals 531w

Credit Institutions and Investment Firms
196

Cremation
546w

Crime
Rural Areas 171w

Crimes of Violence
Nightclubs 316w
Sentencing 423w

Criminal Proceedings
Translation Services 547w

Criminal Records
753w
Databases 172w

Crisis Loans
435w, 554w, 714w

Crockart, Mike
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Aviation, Baggage 565w

Stephen Crouch
694w

Crouch, Tracey
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 461
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Bowel Cancer, Drugs 350w
Engagements 283
Kyrgyzstan, Overseas Aid 369w, 432w

Crown Prosecution Service
696

Cruddas, Jon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
King George Hospital 14-7wh

Cryer, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Forensic Science Service 53w

Cuadrilla Resources
581w

Cultural Heritage
494w

Cultural Quarter
668w

Culture
Education 668w

Culture, Media and Sport
84w, 193w, 318w, 397w, 491w, 666w

Cunningham, Alex
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Border Control Scheme 704
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 393, 405

Cunningham, Mr Jim
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Asylum 752w
British Chambers of Commerce Survey 374w
Construction 103w
Data Protection 672w
Drugs, Misuse 814w
Foreign Students 3
Harassment, Offenders 781w
Harassment, Victim Support Schemes 759w, 782w
Non-domestic Rates, Empty Property 220w
Passports 507w
Pay, Pensions 210w
Pensioners, Fuel Poverty 266w
Piracy 563
Roads, Accidents 58w
Science, Females 471w
Social Security Benefits 211w
Solar Power 348w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 268-9w
Television, Licensing 193w
Theft, Retail Trade 508w
Topical Questions 160, 572
Winter Fuel Payments 215w

Cunningham, Tony
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 744
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Local Government, Pensions 701w

Curran, Margaret
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Questions
Construction Sector 268-9

Cyber Attack
232w

Cyber-Crime
418w
Convictions 424w

Cyber Taskforce
522w

Cycling
Accidents 770w
Safety 187w

Cystic Fibrosis
809w

Dakin, Nic
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 589, 633, 660
Fuel Prices 794, 802-4
G20 38
Localism Bill 129
Teachers' Pension Scheme 134
UK Border Force 61
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Back Pain 238w
Domestic Violence (Victim Support) 439-40
Education Maintenance Allowance 286w
Health Professions 244w
Musculoskeletal Disorders 249w

Danczuk, Simon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405

Dangerous Dogs
419w, 501w, 733w
Prosecutions 548w

Darling, Mr Alistair
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
G20 29
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405

Dartford Crossing
548

Dartford Crossing Charges
425

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing
770w
Tolls 771w

Data Protection
104w, 285w, 672w

Data Security
672w

***Davey, Mr Edward**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Youth Unemployment 406
Written Statements
Bankruptcy and Company Winding Up 1ws
Questions
Adam Werritty 101w
Advertising, Job Vacancies 104w
Banks, Loans 293w
British Chambers of Commerce Survey 374w
Business, Employment Tribunals 102w
Business, Surveys 102-3w, 294-5w
Charities 295w
Company Accounts 295w
Company Liquidations 295-6w
Conditions of Employment 460-1w, 800w
Counterfeit Manufacturing, Trade Agreements 103-4w
Departmental Assets 374-5w
Departmental Data Protection 623w
Departmental Procurement 623w
Departmental Public Expenditure 301w
Departmental Secondment 625w
Departmental Travel 302w
Directors, Disqualification 462w
Employment Tribunals, Reform 303w
Executive Pay 112-3w
Export Credits Guarantees 375-7w
Export Credits Guarantees, Egypt 377-8w
Export Credits Guarantees, Libya 626-7w
Farepak 303w
Freedom of Information Requests 297-8w
HM Revenue and Customs 628-9w
Insolvency 110w, 304-6w
Insolvency, Complaints 305-6w
Insolvency Service, Finance 306-5w
Insolvency Service, Regulation 110-1w
Internships 303w
Legal Opinion 306-7w
Lost Property 104w
Non-governmental Organisations 111w
Press, Subscriptions 105w

Davey, Mr Edward—continued
Private Sector, Pay 99w
Procurement 106-7w, 298-301w, 462w
Public Sector, Pay 105w
Research 465w
Secondary Legislation 624-5w
Secondment 301-2w
Supermarkets, Competition 309w
Trade, Developing Countries 309-10w
Written Questions 107w, 625w

David, Mr Wayne
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
G20 41
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Electoral Registration 678
EU Operational Headquarters 562

Davidson, Mr Ian
Questions
Electoral Commission Report 274

Davies, David T. C. (Monmouth)
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Davies, Geraint
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Business of the House 460
Education Bill 632, 659
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 170-1, 182-3
G20 35
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Engagements 283
Topical Questions 574

Davies, Glyn
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Fuel Prices 786
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 187wh, 196-7wh
Organ Donation 100-1wh
Social Care Funding 138wh, 144wh, 148-9wh
Questions
Poultry, Animal Welfare 500w, 738w

Davies, Philip
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Adoption 86wh
Organ Donation 103wh
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping Operations 519w
Alcohol-related Antisocial Behaviour 11
Civil Disorder 52w
Offensive Weapons, Offences 551w
Remand in Custody 783w
Topical Questions 17, 161

Davis, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
UK Border Force 49
Youth Unemployment 406

Davis, Mr David—continued
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 187wh
Questions
Equitable Life Assurance Society, Compensation 639w

de Bois, Nick
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Border Control Scheme 706
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 372-4, 406
Questions
Buses, Inspections 187w

De Piero, Gloria
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Antisocial Behaviour 10
Housing, Construction 699-700w
Topical Questions 161
Unemployment, Females 540w

Death
Pancreatic Cancer 114w

Death of a Member
557

Defence
557, 11ws, 16ws, 19ws, 28ws, 76w, 227w, 362w, 412w, 516w, 740w
Finance 232w, 521w, 742w
Procurement 561, 454w, 743w
Scotland 744w
Territorial Waters 364w, 522w

Defence Equipment
232w, 412w, 521w
Gibraltar 413w

Defence Manufacturing
569

Defence Munitions
Beith 518w

Defence Reform Review
516w

Delegated Legislation
133

Delegated Legislation (Committees)
258

Dementia
Research 810w

Democratic Republic of Congo
687w
Elections 688w
Overseas Aid 633w
Politics and Government 689w

Demonstrations
Costs 419w

Denham, Rt Hon Mr John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 320, 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405

Dental Services
602w
Schools 126w

Departmental Administrative Costs
270

Departmental Assets
69w, 201w, 256w, 374w, 510w, 648w

Departmental Billing
94w, 222w, 510w, 542w

Departmental Buildings
94w, 710w

Departmental Data Protection
623w

Departmental Fines
566w

Departmental Food
779w, 811w

Departmental Health Insurance
175w

Departmental Judicial Review
787w

Departmental Library
69w

Departmental Lost Property
6w, 43w

Departmental Manpower
16w, 27w, 222w, 436w, 571w, 734w, 753w

Departmental Mobile Phones
697w

Departmental Pay
14w, 70w, 746w

Departmental Press
Subscriptions 331w

Departmental Procurement
623w, 697w, 734w, 800w

Departmental Public Expenditure
116w, 147w, 175w, 260w, 301w, 522w, 572w, 719w, 787w

Departmental Publications
205w

Departmental Regulations
332w

Departmental Responsibilities
27w, 766w

Departmental Secondment
625w

Departmental Training
454w, 711w

Departmental Travel
260w, 302w

Departmental Website
604w

Departmental Written Questions
277w

Deportation
756w
Children 175w, 420w
Complaints 758w
Offenders 52w, 176w

Deportation with Assurances
14ws

Deputy Prime Minister
677, 122w, 282w, 373w, 531w, 763w, 1-2mc

Design
Costs 494w, 511w

Design Services
582w, 634w, 665-6w, 696w, 705w, 766w, 810w

Detention Centres
Children 758w

Developing Countries
Disease Control 635w
Economic Situation 277w
Family Planning 635w
Taxation 431w
Teachers 277w
Waste Disposal 148w

Devolution
512w, 765w
Wales 625w

Diabetes
604w, 811w
Admissions 606w
Nurses 607w

Dialysis Machines
481w

Diamorphine
131w

Diesel Fuel
Agriculture 97w

Dietary Supplements
Channel Islands 131w

Dinenage, Caroline
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Adoption 82wh, 85wh
Questions
Franchises 107w

Directors
Disqualification 462w

Disability
Children 811w
Driving 720w
Young People 241w

Disability Allowance
206w

Disability Living Allowance
719w
Appeals 425w

Disclosure of Information
525w

Divorce
534w

Djanogly, Mr Jonathan,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Written Statements
High Court and Court of Appeal Civil Division (Fees) 40-2ws
Questions
Charities 255w
Chief Coroner 423w, 546w
Christopher Shepherd 27w
Civil Proceedings, Legal Costs 256w
Common and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 103w
Conditional Fee Arrangements 255w
Coroners 256w, 546w
Cremation 547w
Disability Living Allowance, Appeals 425w
Duchy of Cornwall 781w
Family Courts 549w
Food Procurement 779w
Freedom of Information 145-6

Djanogly, Mr Jonathan—continued
Freedom of Information Requests 257-60w
HM Courts and Tribunals Service 549-50w
Insolvency 183w
Legal Aid Scheme 389w
Legal Aid Scheme, Prisoners 261w, 390w, 551w
Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill 551w
Legal Opinion 32-3w, 261-2w
Lost Property 260w
Magistrates Courts, Rural Areas 33w
Personal Injury Law 254-5w
Secondary Legislation 780w
Social Security Benefits, Tribunals 783-4w
Topical Questions 159-64
Translation Services 262w

Dobbin, Jim
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 129
Questions
Developing Countries, Family Planning 635-6w
Invalid Vehicles, Eyesight 773w
Skin Cancer, Drugs 358w
Skin Cancer, Young People 358w

Dobson, Rt Hon Frank
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Consultants 603w

Docherty, Thomas
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 632, 659
Questions
Libya (Aircraft Carrier Capability) 560

Doctors
Pay 813w

Dodds, Mr Nigel
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 472
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Cost of Motor Insurance 230
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 209
Education Bill 660
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 185-6
Fuel Prices 762-4
Middle East and North Africa 301
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Obesity 109wh, 117wh
Questions
Fisheries 719
Immigration, Romania 760w
Succession to the Throne 679

Dogs Act 1871
29w

Domestic Horizon Scanning Committee
454w

Domestic Violence
697
Immigrants 502w

Domestic Violence (Victim Support)
439

Domestic Waste
Waste Collection 654w

Donaldson, Rt Hon Mr Jeffrey M.
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361

Donohoe, Mr Brian H.
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 768, 773
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 217-23wh
Questions
Apprenticeships 313w
Departmental Administrative Costs 271
Rescue Services 58w
Rescue Services, Helicopters 235w

Doran, Mr Frank
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Carbon Capture and Storage 274
Fisheries 711-5, 742

Dorrell, Rt Hon Mr Stephen
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Dorries, Nadine
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 660
Fuel Prices 757
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Fire Services, Pensions 334w
Teachers, Pensions 707w

Dowd, Jim
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Cost of Motor Insurance 225-8, 235, 251, 254
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405

Doyle, Gemma
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 768
Questions
Chief Coroner 558

Doyle-Price, Jackie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Dartford Crossing 548
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing 770w
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing, Tolls 771w
Highways Agency, Manpower 771w
Highways Agency, Operating Costs 772w
Roads 776-7w

Drax, Richard
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 186-8
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Topical Questions 690

Drinks
Regulation 353w

Driving
Diabetes 404w
Disabled 206w

Driving Offences
Speed Limits 317w, 420w

Dromey, Jack
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
E-mail 53w, 224w, 310w, 577w

Drugs
39ws, 512w, 607w
Misuse 814w

Drummore Harbour
Land 82w

Duchy of Cornwall
498w, 532w, 639w, 780w
Freedom of Information 532w

Duchy of Lancaster
Estate Agents 535w
Farms 535w

Duddridge, James
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Dugher, Michael
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 659
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405

Duncan, Rt Hon Mr Alan
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Accountancy, EU Law 143-4w, 369w
Central America, Storms 752w
Consultants 369w
Design Services 634-5w
Developing Countries, Disease Control 635w
Developing Countries, Taxation 432w
Developing Countries, Waste Disposal 148-9w
East Africa, Education 149-50w
Equatorial Guinea, Overseas Aid 278w
EU Aid 72-3w
Kyrgyzstan, Overseas Aid 369-70w, 432w
Overseas Aid 152w, 278-9w
Public Sector Employee Bids 148w
Research 431w
St Helena, Airports 279-82w
St Helena, Overseas Aid 282w
Security Vetting 148w, 276-7w
Turkey, Earthquakes 75w, 156w
Yemen 637-8w

Duncan Smith, Rt Hon Mr Iain
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
Youth Unemployment 406

Dunne, Mr Philip
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 660

Durkan, Mark
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 791
Questions
Engagements 282
Topical Questions 690

E-mail
53w, 224w, 310w, 577w

EADS
517w

Eagle, Maria
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
M5 Motorway Accident 64-5
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 235-8wh, 240wh
Questions
East Coast Railway Line, Rolling Stock 312w
Large Goods Vehicles 773w
Large Goods Vehicles, Accidents 774w
Metal Theft 188w
Railway Stations 422-3
Railways, Electricity 57w
Railways, Finance 189w
Railways, Franchises 776w
Railways, Freight 189w
Railways, Standards 313w
Rescue Services 190w
Road Signs and Markings 191w
Shipping, Registration 191w
Transport, Capital Investment 580w

Eagle, Ms Angela
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Business of the House 452-4
Education Bill 632, 659
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Child Tax Credit 639w
Children's Centres 678w
Higher Education, Admissions 627w
Knives, Crime 760w
Winter Fuel Payments 563w

East Africa
Droughts 149w
Education 149w

East Coast Railway Line
Rolling Stock 312w

East Sutton Park Prison
Discipline 389w

ECOFIN
1ws, 31ws, 33ws

Economic and Monetary Union
649w

Economic Growth
Liverpool 654w

Education
29ws, 39w, 284w, 382w, 414w, 542w, 673w

Education Bill 2010-12 (Programme Motion and Lords Amendments)
580-662

Education Maintenance Allowance
286w, 678w
Birmingham 286w

Edwards, Jonathan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 129
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Devolution, Wales 625w
Export Credits Guarantees 375w
Topical Questions 436
Trade Promotion 477w
Trade Promotion, Saudi Arabia 802w

Efford, Clive
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
School Sport 90w
School Sports 416-7w
UK Sport, Sport England 90-2w

ElcomSoft
272w

Electoral Commission Committee
530w

Electoral Commission Report
273

Electoral Register
677, 680-82, 532w, 763-64w

Electric Vehicles
Bedfordshire 187w

Electricity
264w, 581w

Electricity Generation
347w

Elliott, Julie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Electoral Registration 682
Legal Aid (Social Welfare) 143
Skin Cancer 539w, 620w

Ellis, Michael
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 53
Youth Unemployment 406

Ellison, Jane
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 339, 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 153-4wh

Ellman, Mrs Louise
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Cost of Motor Insurance 218-20, 229, 256
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129
Middle East and North Africa 298
Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail) 213-7
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Jobcentre Plus, Merseyside 62w
Railway Stations 422

Ellwood, Mr Tobias
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 468-9, 476, 482, 523, 532-5
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 126-8, 131
M5 Motorway Accident 71
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
International Monetary Fund 641w

Elphicke, Charlie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 312, 326, 347-9, 355, 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 59
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Care Homes 808w
Government Procurement Card 577w
Knife Crime 6
Ports 57w

Emergencies
454w

Employment
Disability 325w
Electronic Government 208w
Waste Management 462w

Employment and Support Allowance
62w, 207w, 556w

Employment Schemes
207w, 440w
Contracts 324w
Voluntary Organisations 721w
Young People 207w

Employment Tribunals
Reform 303w

Empty Property
21w

Energy
582w
Billing 583w
British Overseas Territories 407w
Finance 583w
Infrastructure 788w
Mobile Homes 788w
Unsolicited Goods and Services 584w

Energy and Climate Change
11ws, 1w, 263w, 342w, 406w, 580w, 784w

Energy Performance Certificates
Holiday Accommodation 655w

Energy Prices
272, 2w, 407w, 583w, 789w

Engagements
276, 282

Engel, Natascha
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Business of the House 455
Education Bill 632, 659
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Cats, Electric Shock Equipment 731w
Parliamentary Scrutiny 533w

English Baccalaureate
44w, 382w
Chinese Language 45w

English Heritage
495w

Enterprise Zones
21w
Scotland 655w

Entry Clearances
53w, 177w, 503w

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
3ws, 12ws, 20ws, 29ws, 35ws, 4w, 220w, 329w, 397w, 499w, 729w

Environment Protection
463w, 536w, 625w
Local Authorities 736w

Equal Opportunities
603w

Equatorial Guinea
Overseas Aid 278w

Equitable Life Assurance Society
Compensation 97w, 639w

Esterson, Bill
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 129-30
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Biofuels 769w
Natural Gas, Exploration 2w

Ethnic Groups
Treaties 411w

EU Aid
72w

EU Grants and Loans
705w

EU Law
504w

EU Operational Headquarters
561

Euro Summit
401w

European Aviation Safety Authority
577w

European Budgets 2014 to 2020
170

European Court of Human Rights
694

European Fighter Aircraft
82w

European Union
639w, 767w, 790w
Legislative Competence 161w, 690w
Powers 73w

Eurozone Crisis
183wh

Eustice, George
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Fuel Prices 785-7
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Evans, Chris
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 520-2
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Charities 10w
Service Personnel, Housing 516w
Topical Questions 575

Evans, Graham
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Evans, Jonathan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Cost of Motor Insurance 218, 222, 230
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Evennett, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 314, 363
Border Control Scheme 701
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Airports, Weather 56w
Child Maintenance 199-200w
East Africa, Education 149w
Foreign Students 1-2
Licensing Act 2003 507w
Nigeria, Human Rights 74w
Patients, Transport 357w

Ex-servicemen
Domestic Violence 526w
Finance 333w, 748w

Excise Duties
Fuels 97w
National Lottery 97w

Executive Pay
112w

Export Credits Guarantees
375w
Egypt 377w
Libya 626w

Exports
Licensing 801w

Extradition
691, 260w

Fabricant, Michael
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Fair Communities Scheme
655w

Fallon, Michael
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
G20 32
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Dartford Crossing Charges 426
Equitable Life Assurance Society, Compensation 97w
Military Bases, Chelsfield 528w
Venture Capital 803w

Family Courts
549w

Family Migration Route
8

Famine
International Co-operation 150w

Farepak
303w

Farmers
711w

Farrelly, Paul
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Farron, Tim
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Fuel Prices 746-7
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Farron, Tim—continued
Questions
Fisheries 224w
Grayrigg Train Crash 432
NHS, Information and Communications Technology 486w
Topical Questions 685

Fats
Health Hazards 243w

Featherstone, Lynne, Minister for Equalities
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Written Statements
Strengthening Women's Voices in Government 6ws
Questions
Animal Experiments 167w
Animal Experiments, EU Law 167w, 418w
Animal Experiments, Imports 501w
Animal Experiments, Primates 168w
Bell Pottinger Group 401w
Criminal Records 753w
Criminal Records, Databases 172w
Departmental Consultants 310w
E-mail 310w
Forced Marriages and Honour Killings 438-9
Harassment, Victim Support Schemes 759w
Hate Crime 439, 401w
Ministers, Equality 401w
Topical Questions 19

Federation of Student Islamic Societies
272w

Feed-in Tariffs
Housing 264w

Feed-in Tarrifs
Renewable Energy 347-48w

Fertilizers
227w

Field, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Basement Developments 63-8wh, 70wh
Eurozone Crisis 184wh, 191-4wh, 201wh
Grammar Schools 23wh, 26wh

Field, Rt Hon Mr Frank
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Invalid Vehicles, Eyesight 578w
Ministerial Meetings 1w
Net Migration 51w
Pension Credit 726w
Written Questions 501w

Financial Services
504w
Complaints 640w

Fire Service (Halesowen and Rowley Regis)
130wh

Fire Services
700w
Finance 656w
Pensions 334w

Firearms
Licensing 420w, 504w

First Aid
Curriculum 286w

Fisheries
711
275, 224w
Quotas 225w
Ribble Estuary 736w
Statistics 225w

Fitzpatrick, Jim
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632
Localism Bill 130
UK Border Force 60
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Hepatitis 245w
Piracy 405w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 587w

Flags
603w

Flello, Robert
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 765-7
Localism Bill 130
M5 Motorway Accident 68
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Baby Care Units 598w
Coroners 546w
Cremation 546w
Victim Support 147

Flint, Rt Hon Caroline
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
NHS, Solar Power 821w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 2w
Solar Power 267w, 348-9w, 591w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 3-4w, 267-8w, 591w, 796w
Solar Power, Manpower 596w

Floods
Insurance 226w

Flynn, Paul
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 130
M5 Motorway Accident 68-9
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Organ Donation 98-9wh
Questions
Afghanistan 569
Counter-terrorism, Research 520w
Defence, Procurement 454w
Extradition 691
Military Bases, Radiation Exposure 750w
Radioactive Waste, Sweden 792w
Voluntary Work 699w

Food
Hygiene 499w
Prices 226w, 499w

Forced Marriages and Honour Killings
438

Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council
21ws

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
21ws, 37ws, 68w, 157w, 370w, 410w, 645w, 686w

Foreign HGV Drivers
429

Foreign Relations
649w
Republic of Ireland 16w

Foreign Students
1

Forensic Science Service
53w

Foster, Rt Hon Mr Don
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406

Fovargue, Yvonne
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Bribery and Corruption 692
Hydration, Hospitals 483w
Topical Questions 164, 684

Fox, Rt Hon Dr Liam
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Topical Questions 575

France
Military Alliances 527w, 749w

Franchises
107w

Francis, Dr Hywel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Francois, Rt Hon Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660

Free Fruit for Young Children
409

Free Schools
287w, 681w
Finance 287w
West London 682w

Freedom of Information
145, 457w

Freedom of Information Requests
11w, 19w, 36w, 80w, 85w, 94w, 116w, 146w, 158w, 173w, 182w, 192w, 194w, 202w, 239w, 257w, 297w, 319w, 331w, 370w, 543w, 566w, 696w, 785w

Freeman, George
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Fuel Prices 761
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 209-10wh

Freer, Mike
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Departmental Billing 94w, 222w
Departmental Press, Subscriptions 331w
Electoral Commission Report 273
NHS 819w
Press, Subscriptions 43w, 105w

Freeview Service
495w

Freeview Services
86w

Fuel Poverty
407w, 584w, 790w
Greater London 407w
Pensioners 409w
Students 585w

Fuel Prices
743

Fullbrook, Lorraine
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131

Fuller, Richard
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 586, 590-1, 599, 605-6, 610-4, 619, 621, 624, 634, 660
Fuel Prices 765
Youth Unemployment 371, 406
Westminster Hall
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 211wh, 214wh

Funeral Payments
441w, 722w

Further Education
108w

G20
23

Gale, Mr Roger
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 406-7
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 240wh
Questions
Freeview Services 86w
Radio Frequencies 88w
Railways, Kent 579w
Smart Meters 265w

Gang Injunctions
694

Gangs
3

Gangs (London)
14

Gapes, Mike
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
G20 34
Localism Bill 130
Middle East and North Africa 305-6
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
King George Hospital 1-11wh, 16wh

Gardiner, Barry
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 130

Gardiner, Barry—continued
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Air Pollution 597w
Biodiversity 729-30w
Biofuels, EU Law 403-4w
Brazil, UN Conference on Environment and Development 500w
British Overseas Territories, Biodiversity 647w
Building Regulations, Water Supply 654w
Carbon 406w
Climate Change 804w
Departmental Public Expenditure 787w
Electricity 581w
Employment, Waste Management 462w
Energy, British Overseas Territories 407w
Energy Prices 407w, 583w
Energy, Unsolicited Goods and Services 584w
Environment Protection 463-4w, 536w, 625-6w
Environment Protection, Local Authorities 736w
Feed-in Tarrifs, Renewable Energy 348w
Fuel Poverty 407w, 584w
Fuel Poverty, Greater London 407w
Fuel Poverty, Pensioners 409w
Green Deal Scheme 409w
Green Economy Council 705w
Local Government, Databases 659w
Natural Resources 537w
Nature Conservation 738w
Planning, Biodiversity 663w
Planning Permission 663w
Pollution Control 469w
Renewable Energy 793w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 795w
Renewable Energy, Heating 590w
Sites of Special Scientific Interest 739w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 593w, 797w
Sustainable Development 664w
Tax Allowances, Environment Protection 707w
Warm Home Discount Scheme 349w

Garnier, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Fuel Prices 750-1
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407

Garnier, Mr Edward, Solicitor-General
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Crown Prosecution Service 696-7
Data Protection 672w
Freedom of Information Requests 193w
Gang Injunctions 694

Gas Fired Power Stations
791w

Gauke, Mr David, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Bank Account Fraud 245-7wh
Written Statements
Modernising the Personal Tax System 27ws
Personal Independence Payment 34ws

Gauke, Mr David—continued
VAT—Low Value Consignment Relief 15-6ws
Questions
Child Benefit 93w
Child Care Vouchers 638w
Child Tax Credit 638-9w
Council Tax, Swindon 93-4w
HM Revenue and Customs, Disclosure of Information 183w
Income Tax, Tax Rates and Bands 705-6w
Interest Rates 641w
PAYE 184w, 641-2w
Revenue and Customs 340-1w, 430w
Tax Avoidance 341w
Tax Credit 213w
Taxation 99-100w
Taxation, Football 644-5w
Taxation, Multinational Companies 430w
Unpaid Taxes 645w
VAT, Channel Islands 708w
VAT, Construction 185w
VAT, Hotels 185w
VAT, Imports 708w
VAT, Medical Treatments 100-1w
VAT, Metals 342w
VAT, Sports 430w
VAT, Tax Rates and Bands 708w
Welfare Tax Credits, Eligibility 185-6w
Working Tax Credit 645w
Working Tax Credit, Older Workers 101w

GCSE
45w

General Practitioners
132w
Essex 353w
Finance 243w, 353w
Telephone Services 132w

Generation Capacity
265w

George, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 450
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Devolution 765w
Duchy of Cornwall 498w, 532w, 639w, 780-1w
Duchy of Cornwall, Freedom of Information 532w
Fisheries 714, 725-6
Topical Questions 21, 687-8

Gibb, Mr Nick, Minister of State, Department for Education
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 582-93, 596-7, 600, 604, 613, 624, 626-32, 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 43-7wh
Schools (Bradford) 58-62wh
Questions
Academies, Standards 673-4w
Arts, Teachers 284-5w
Care to Learn Programme 674-7w
Class Sizes 42-3w
Education Maintenance Allowance 286w, 678-81w
Education Maintenance Allowance, Birmingham 286w
English Baccalaureate 44-5w, 382w

Gibb, Mr Nick—continued
English Baccalaureate, Chinese Language 45w
First Aid, Curriculum 286-7w
Free Schools 287w, 681-2w
Free Schools, Finance 287w
Free Schools, West London 682w
GCSE 45w
Grammar Schools 287-8w
Head Teachers, Recruitment 544w
Health Education, Nutrition 288w
Mathematics, Science 288-9w
Music, Education 45w, 289w
New Schools Network 289w
Pupils, Bullying 46w
Pupils, Disadvantaged 683-4w
Schools, Admissions 684w
Schools, Assessments 46w
Schools, Dogs 47w
Schools, ICT 47-8w
Schools, Pupils 684w
Schools, Repairs and Maintenance 684-5w
Schools, Vocational Guidance 290w, 383w, 685w
Students, Transport 685w
Teachers 48w
Teachers, Pensions 48-50w, 290-1w, 685w, 707-8w
Teachers, Training 292w
Young People, Vocational Training 383w

Gilbert, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Military Aid, Equipment 749w
Piracy 563
Southern Cross Healthcare 142w

Gillan, Rt Hon Mrs Cheryl
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Barnett Formula 509w
Business Advisory Council 510w
Commission on Devolution in Wales 510w
Devolution 512w
Finance 513w
Inward Investment 513-4w
Joint Ministerial Committee 514w
Security Vetting 166w
Strategic Defence and Security Review 515w

Gilmore, Sheila
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Fuel Prices 785, 797-8
G20 40
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 382-4, 405
Questions
Heavy Goods Vehicles 431-2
Topical Questions 164
UK Border Agency 13

Glass, Pat
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 130
UK Border Force 56
Youth Unemployment 388-9, 405

Glen, John
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 536-7
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660

Glen, John—continued
Fuel Prices 766
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Libya, Armed Conflict 234w
Operation Ellamy 517w

Glindon, Mrs Mary
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Agriculture, Pay 220w
Business, Regulation 460w
Conditions of Employment 460w, 800w
Fisheries 724-5
Forced Marriages and Honour Killings 438
HM Revenue and Customs 628w
MOT Tests 423-4
Topical Questions 164

Global Population
153w

Godsiff, Mr Roger
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 632, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Goggins, Paul
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 338-9, 361
Border Control Scheme 702
Education Bill 632-3, 659
Localism Bill 130
UK Border Force 52
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Administration of Justice, Translation Services 544w
Criminal Proceedings, Translation Services 547-8w
Home Education, Vetting 544w
Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill 551w
Probation Officers 152
Sexual Offences, Crime Prevention 552w
Topical Questions 21, 575

Goldsmith, Zac
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 94-6, 101-2, 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Carbon Sequestration 785w
Energy, Finance 583w
European Union, Powers 73w
Fisheries 723
Health Education, Nutrition 288w
Hunting, Wild Boar 397w
Local Government, Public Consultation 701w
Planning Permission 661w
Public Sector, Carbon Emissions 767w
Railways, Fares 189w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 2w
Reoffenders 394w
School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme 822w
Sentencing 394w
Tidal Power 798w

Goodman, Helen
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 480
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 130

***Goodman, Helen*—continued**
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
GPT, Saudi Arabia 311w
Public Sector Pensions 429-30w
Radio Frequencies 323w

Goodwill, Mr Robert
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407

Gove, Rt Hon Michael,* *Secretary of State for Education
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Youth Unemployment 407
Written Statements
New Schools 29ws

Government Contracts
Deloitte 537w

Government Departments
Internet 767w

Government Procurement Card
367w, 577w

GPT
Saudi Arabia 311w

Graham, Richard
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 478
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 466
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 396, 399, 407
Westminster Hall
Adoption 80wh, 85wh, 88wh
Questions
Pensions 446w
Topical Questions 687

Grammar Schools
287w
23wh

Grandparents
288w, 415w

Grant Funding
494w

Grant, Mrs Helen
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 496, 500
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 148wh
Questions
Reoffending 150

Gray, Mr James
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Reserve Forces, London 2012 Olympics 369w
Travellers Sites 25w

Grayling, Rt Hon Chris,* *Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 371, 376-85, 407

***Grayling, Rt Hon Chris*—continued**
Written Statements
Birth and Bereavement Service 30ws
Questions
Adam Werritty 433-4w
Attendance Allowance 198-9w
Benefits Expenditure 437-8w
Construction, Jarrow 434-5w
Convictions, Industrial Health and Safety 192w
Departmental Assets 201-2w
Departmental Manpower 436w
Departmental Public Expenditure 719w
Departmental Publications 205-6w
Employment and Support Allowance 62w, 207w, 556w
Employment, Electronic Government 208-9w
Employment Schemes 207w, 440-1w
Employment Schemes, Contracts 325w
Employment Schemes, Voluntary Organisations 721-2w
Employment Schemes, Young People 208w
Freedom of Information Requests 202-3w
Incapacity Benefits 210w
Income Support 210w
Income Support, Lone Parents 210w, 441-2w
Industrial Health and Safety, Construction 442-0w, 442-4w
Industrial Health and Safety, Fines 444-3w
Innovation Fund, Young People 443w
Internships 439-40w
Jobcentre Plus 443-4w
Jobcentre Plus, Manpower 444-5w
Jobcentre Plus, Merseyside 62-3w
Legal Opinion 60w, 203-5w, 435-6w
Marketing 436-7w
Ministerial Policy Advisers 445w
NDPBs 205w
New Deal Schemes, Contracts 445-6w
PAYE, Universal Credit 63w
Public Sector, Pay 437w
Secondary Legislation 60-1w
Security Vetting 61-2w
Social Security Benefits 64w, 446-8w, 562w, 727-8w
Social Security Benefits, Publicity 448w
Translation Services 438-9w
Unemployment, Dudley 448-9w
Universal Credit 65w, 213-4w, 449-50w, 562-3w, 729w
Universal Credit, Free School Meals 66w
UNUM Ltd 450w
Work Capability Assessment 66-7w, 450w, 563-4w
Work Programme 67w, 215-7w, 451w, 564w
Written Questions 439-40w

Grayrigg Train Crash
432

Great Western Railway Line
Overcrowding 312w

Greatrex, Tom
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Cuadrilla Resources 581w
Energy 582-3w
Natural Gas, Exploration 586w
Ofgem 586w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 587-9w, 795w
Scottish and Southern Energy 590w

***Greatrex, Tom*—continued**
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 591-3w, 797w
Topical Questions 19

Green Construction Board
465w

Green, Damian,* *Minister for Immigration
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 357-61, 363
Border Control Scheme 699-707
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
Written Statements
Immigration Rules 6-7ws
Questions
Asylum 169-70w, 316w, 502w, 752w
Asylum, Employment 170-1w
Asylum, EU Countries 753w
Charities 171w
Consultants 172-3w
Departmental Health Insurance 175w
Departmental Manpower 753-6w
Deportation 756-8w
Deportation, Children 176w, 420w
Deportation, Complaints 758w
Deportation, Offenders 52-3w, 177w
Detention Centres, Children 758-9w
Domestic Violence, Immigrants 502w
E-mail 53w
Entry Clearances 53w, 177w, 504w
Family Migration Route 8-9
Freedom of Information Requests 173w, 174-5w
Human Trafficking 54w
Human Trafficking, Northern Ireland 54w
Identity and Passport Service 760w
Illegal Immigrants 505w
Illegal Immigrants, Employment 505-6w
Illegal Immigration (Olympics) 12
Immigration 421w, 760w
Immigration Controls 506w
Immigration, Romania 760w
Immigration, Scotland 506w
Legal Opinion 178w
Lost Property 175w
Net Migration 51w
Passports 507-8w
Passports, Fraud 421-2w
UK Border Agency 13-4, 179w
UK Border Agency, Finance 179w, 763w
UK Border Agency, Manpower 180w, 422w
UK Border Agency, Stress 508w
UK Border Agency, Telephone Services 508-9w
UK Border Agency, Training 318w

Green Deal Scheme
409w, 585w, 791w, 801w

Green Economy Council
705w

Green Investment Bank
98w, 801w

Green Investment Bank (Leeds)
665

Green, Kate
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Points of Order 307
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Asylum 169-70w
Business Start-ups 438
Family Migration Route 9

Green, Kate—continued
HM Courts and Tribunals Service 549w
HM Revenue and Customs, Disclosure of Information 183w
Integration Strategy 217w
Race Relations 24w
Restorative Justice 156
Vitamin D 360w

Greening, Justine, *Secretary of State for Transport*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660
Localism Bill 131
M5 Motorway Accident 62-76
Youth Unemployment 407
Written Statements
High-speed Rail 13ws
Rail Reform 42ws
Triennial Review of NDPBs (HS2 Ltd) 13-4ws
Questions
Aviation Safety 421
High Speed 2 Railway Line 578w
MOT Tests 423-5
Topical Questions 432-6
Winter Resilience 427

Greenwood, Lilian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 768, 775
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Rural Bus Services 428
Topical Questions 688

Grieve, Rt Hon Mr Dominic, *Attorney-General*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Bell Pottinger Group 530w
Bribery and Corruption 692-4
Consultants 531w
Courts, Victims 530-1w
Domestic Violence 697-8
European Court of Human Rights 695-6
Extradition 691-2
GPT, Saudi Arabia 311w
Written Questions 124-3w

Griffith, Nia
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 757, 767
Localism Bill 130
M5 Motorway Accident 71
UK Border Force 58
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Bail Accommodation and Support Service 545w
Bail and Accommodation Support Services 779w
Broadband 319w
Broadband, Wales 397w
Police, Buildings 762w
Police Community Support Officers, Wales 762w
Police, Manpower 763w
UK Border Agency 179w
UK Border Agency, Finance 179w, 763w
UK Border Agency, Manpower 179-80w, 422w
UK Border Agency, Training 318w

Griffiths, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 660-1
Fuel Prices 767-9, 773
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Employment and Support Allowance 62w
Knife Crime 152
Police, Olympic Games 2012 55w
Teachers, Pensions 50w

Growing Places Fund
182w, 399w, 466w

Guisborough Royal Mail delivery Office
409

Gummer, Ben
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 210-1wh, 214wh
Questions
Energy Prices 789w

Gwynne, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
King George Hospital 17-20wh
Questions
Clinical Commissioning Groups 601-2w
Engagements 285
Heart Diseases, Ethnic Groups 815w
Heart Diseases, Health Services 610w
NHS, Finance 615w

Gyimah, Mr Sam
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 42
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Equitable Life Assurance Society, Compensation 639w
Students, Finance 631w

Hague, Mr William, *Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*
Chamber Debates
Middle East and North Africa 288-91, 294-306
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Adam Werritty 68w, 410w
Departmental Library 69-70w
European Union, Legislative Competence 161w, 690w
Ministerial Meetings 162w
Sri Lanka 373w

Hain, Rt Hon Mr Peter
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Adam Werritty 709w
Animal Welfare 509w
Anti-Semitism 709w
Barnett Formula 509w

Hain, Rt Hon Mr Peter—continued
Bovine Tuberculosis, Disease Control 509w
Business Advisory Council 510w
Commission on Devolution in Wales 510w
Communication 710w
Creative Industries 710w
Departmental Assets 510w
Departmental Billing 510w
Departmental Buildings 710w
Devolution 512w
Drugs 512w
Electrification 513w
Farmers 711-2w
Finance 513w
High Speed 2 Railway Line 712w
Human Trafficking, Children 513w
Internships 516w
Inward Investment 513w
Joint Ministerial Committee 514w
Legal Opinion 514w
Press, Subscriptions 511w
Public Sector, Pay 511w, 514w
Security 514w
Security Vetting 512w
Social Security Benefits 515w
Strategic Defence and Security Review 515w
Telephone Services 515w
Unemployment 515w

Hair Dyes
Chemicals 133w, 303w

Halfon, Robert
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 313, 325, 327, 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Fuel Prices 743-9, 777, 805-6
Localism Bill 131
Middle East and North Africa 299
Youth Unemployment 367, 376, 378, 381, 401, 407
Questions
Topical Questions 22, 163, 574

Hames, Duncan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Bradford-on-Avon Station Ticket Office 409
Education Bill 634, 661
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 448
Localism Bill 131
Middle East and North Africa 300
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Organ Donation 101-2wh
Questions
Railway Stations 422

Hamilton, Fabian
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 519
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Business of the House 462-3
Education Bill 633, 659
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 667, 671
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 449
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
RAF Menwith Hill 235w

Hamilton, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 784, 798
Localism Bill 130
M5 Motorway Accident 71
Youth Unemployment 405

Hamilton, Mr David—continued
Questions
Carbon Sequestration 785w
Carbon Sequestration, Longannet 580w, 785w
Conditions of Employment 461w
Legislation, Parliamentary Scrutiny 498w
Lip-reading 629w
Private Members' Bills 498w

***Hammond, Mr Philip,** Secretary of State for Defence*
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 661
Questions
Adam Werritty 228-9w, 518-9w
Afghanistan 564-6
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping Operations 519w
Bell Pottinger Group 520w
Defence Reform Review 516-7w
Departmental Public Expenditure 523w
Disclosure of Information 526w
EU Operational Headquarters 561-2
France, Military Alliances 527w, 749w
IRG 527-8w
Israel, Joint Exercises 528w
Libya 568
Libya (Aircraft Carrier Capability) 559-61
Libya, Armed Conflict 234w
Lord Astor of Hever 528w
Military Aid, Equipment 749-50w
Ministerial Meetings 232-3w
Ministerial Responsibilities 523-4w
Operation Ellamy 517w
Rescue Services, Helicopters 235w
Sri Lanka 529w
Topical Questions 572-4, 576, 578
Trident 236w
Visits Abroad 524-5w
Written Questions, Government Responses 529w

Hammond, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Business of the House 458
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
M5 Motorway Accident 74
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 197-9wh, 202wh
Questions
Departmental Manpower 16w, 27w, 571w
Departmental Pay 14w, 70w, 746w
EU Operational Headquarters 561-2
Legal Opinion 9w, 16-7w, 31-2w, 60w, 82w, 126w, 159w, 177w, 197-8w, 203-4w, 261w, 306-7w, 371w, 435w
Legal Opinion, Costs 13-4w, 410w, 415w, 568w, 570w
Manpower 734w
NDBPs 95w
NDPBs 128w, 205w, 365w
NDPBs, Manpower 578-9w
Non-departmental Public Bodies 70w
Public Sector, Bonuses 567w
Public Sector, Pay 96w, 105w, 129-30w, 165w, 196-7w, 285w, 366w, 385w, 437w, 571w
Secondary Legislation 14w, 60w, 81w, 127w, 160w, 197w, 573w, 624w, 780w
Topical Questions 573

Hancock, Matthew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 315, 328, 363
Fuel Prices 797

Hancock, Matthew—continued
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Defence Reform Review 516w
Public Sector Pensions 642w
Social Security Benefits 64w
Topical Questions 434, 3mc

Hancock, Mr Mike
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 59
Questions
Animal Experiments, EU Law 418w
Armed Forces, Education 742w
Armed Forces, Pay 363w
Armed Forces, Redundancy 363w
Armed Forces, Training 519w
Birds of Prey 730w
Defence Equipment, Gibraltar 413w
Defence, Finance 232w, 521w, 742w
Defence, Territorial Waters 364w, 522w
Ex-servicemen, Finance 333w
France, Military Alliances 527w, 749w
Navy 529w
Navy, Animal Experiments 750w
Written Questions 366w

Hands, Greg
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 662
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 175
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 407

Hanson, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Business of the House 461
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Business Start-ups 437
Home Office Guidance 420w
Olympic Games 2012, Voluntary Work 323w
Police Forces (Collaboration) 7-8
Youth Parliament 713w

Harassment
Offenders 781w
Victim Support Schemes 759w, 782w

Harbour Authorities
56w

Harman, Rt Hon Ms Harriet
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Arts, Higher Education 459w
Betting Shops, Licensing 17w
Topical Questions 685-6

***Harper, Mr Mark,** Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
British Nationals Abroad, Elections 373w
Credit, Foreign Nationals 531-2w
Duchy of Cornwall 532w
Duchy of Cornwall, Freedom of Information 532w
Electoral Register 681-2, 532-3w, 764-5w

Harper, Mr Mark—continued
Electoral Registration 680
Lobbying 283w
Parliamentary Reform 763w
Voter Registration 282-3w, 1-2mc

Harrington, Richard
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 381, 407
Questions
Prison Work 254w
Rehabilitation 155

Harris, Mr Tom
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Harris, Rebecca
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407

Hart, Simon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Cost of Motor Insurance 223
Education Bill 634, 661
Fuel Prices 761
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Obesity 108wh, 121wh

***Harvey, Nick,** Minister for the Armed Forces*
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 468-81
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Written Statements
Call-out Order 16ws
Operations in Afghanistan 28ws
Project Avanti 19-20ws
Questions
Aircraft Carriers 229-30w
Ammunition, Storage 230w, 362w
Armed Forces, Germany 231w
Armed Forces, Members 742w
Armed Forces, Training 519-20w
Cyber Attack 232w
Cyber Taskforce 522w
Defence Equipment 232w
Defence, Finance 742-3w
Defence, Territorial Waters 365w, 522w
Iran 571-2, 749w
Iraq, Peacekeeping Operations 233-4w
Libya, Armed Conflict 234w
Military Aircraft 234w
Piracy 563-4
Private Finance Initiative 233w
Procurement 233w
RAF Leuchars 235w
RAF Lossiemouth, European Fighter Aircraft 368-9w
RAF Menwith Hill 235w
Reserve Forces, London 2012 Olympics 369w
Somalia, Piracy 529w
Submarines, Decommissioning 235-6w
Topical Questions 573-6
Type 23 Frigates 751w

Haselhurst, Rt Hon Sir Alan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661

Haselhurst, Rt Hon Sir Alan—continued
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407

Hate Crime
439, 401w

Havard, Mr Dai
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 489-92, 499, 526
Border Checks Summer 2011 361
Education Bill 633
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

***Hayes, Mr John,** Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 636-47, 652-8, 661
Youth Unemployment 374-5, 386, 388, 402-4, 407
Questions
Apprentices 622-1w
Apprentices, Tees Valley 797-9w
Basic Skills 101-2w
Further Education 108w
Lip-reading 629w
Students, Fees and Charges 113w

Head Teachers
Recruitment 543w

Heald, Oliver
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131

Healey, Rt Hon John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 361-2
Education Bill 633, 659
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 667
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 448
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 369, 405

Health
17ws, 24ws, 1p, 125w, 236w, 350w, 478w, 597w, 804w
Cabinet Committees 482w

Health Care Incentives
354w

Health Education
Nutrition 288w

Health Inequality
243w

Health Professions
244w

Health Protection Agency
244w

Health Services
North-west England 355w
Older People 133w, 608w
Overseas Visitors 608w, 814w

Heart Diseases
Ethnic Groups 815w
Health Services 610w

***Heath, Mr David,** Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Leader of the House of Commons*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 449
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407

Heathrow Airport
577w

Heaton-Harris, Chris
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407

Heavy Goods Vehicles
431

Hemming, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Fuel Prices 757
Localism Bill 131
Points of Order 580
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Adoption 40w

Henderson, Gordon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Electoral Register 764w
Lighting, Pollution 585w
Procurement 734w
Topical Questions 159

Hendrick, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Illegal Immigration (Olympics) 11-2

***Hendry, Charles,** Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Written Statements
Statutory Security of Supply Report 11ws
Questions
Bell Pottinger Group 343w, 784-5w
Capabilities Programme 787-8w
Carbon Sequestration 785w
Carbon Sequestration, Longannet 581w, 785w
Civil Nuclear Constabulary 581w
Cuadrilla Resources 582w
Electricity 264w, 581-2w
Electricity Generation 347w
Energy 583w
Energy, Billing 583w
Energy, Finance 583w
Energy, Infrastructure 788w
Energy Prices 789-90w
Energy, Unsolicited Goods and Services 584w
European Union 790w
Fuel Poverty, Students 585w
Gas Fired Power Stations 791w
Generation Capacity 265w
Green Deal Scheme 585w
Liquefied Gas 791-2w
Natural Gas, Exploration 2w, 586w
Nuclear Power Stations, Construction 792w
Nuclear Power Stations, Hinkley Point 792w
Ofgem 586-7w

Hendry, Charles—continued
Oil, Safety 266w
Radioactive Waste, Sweden 792-3w
Renewable Energy 793w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 589-90w, 794-5w
Renewable Energy, Heating 590w
Scottish and Southern Energy 590w
Smart Meters 265-6w
Solar Power 590-1w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 591-4w, 796-7w
Solar Power, Finance 595-6w
Solar Power, Manpower 596w
Wind Power 596-7w
Wind Power, Planning Permission 597w

Hepatitis
245w

Hepburn, Mr Stephen
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Questions
Construction, Jarrow 201w, 434w
Construction, Self-employed 296w
Industrial Health and Safety, Construction 441w, 442-3w
Industrial Health and Safety, Fines 444w

***Herbert, Nick,** Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Independent Police Complaints Commission 817-20
Localism Bill 131
Questions
Civil Disorder 52w, 171w
Demonstrations, Costs 419-20w
Departmental Public Expenditure 175w
Driving Offences, Speed Limits 420w
Firearms, Licensing 420w
Home Office Guidance 421w
Human Trafficking 54w
Knife Crime 5-6, 50-1w
Knives, Crime 760-2w
Members, Correspondence 762w
Offenders, Ex-servicemen 421w
Police 422w
Police Authority Funding 17
Police, Buildings 762-3w
Police Community Support Officers, Wales 762w
Police, Finance 422w
Police Funding Settlement 15
Police, Manpower 764-3w
Police Numbers 16
Police, Olympic Games 2012 55w
Public Disorder (Tottenham) 14
Public Sector Employee Bids 178-9w
Rehabilitation 154-5
Reoffending 147-51
Restorative Justice 156-7
Seized Articles, Landfill 55w
Topical Questions 19-21, 160

Heyes, David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Asylum 169w, 316w

High Court and Court of Appeal Civil Division (Fees)
40ws

High-speed Rail
13ws

High Speed 2 Railway Line
577w, 712w

Higher Education
108w
Admissions 109w, 627w
Ethnic Groups 627w
Finance 628w
Private Sector 628w
Teachers 466w

Higher Education Funding Council
109w

Highways Agency
Manpower 771w
Operating Costs 772w

Hillier, Meg
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 346-7, 362
Border Control Scheme 703
Youth Unemployment 370, 387, 389, 392, 405
Questions
Gang Injunctions 694
Gangs (London) 14-5
Organised Crime, Departmental Coordination 702w
Trade Promotion, Nigeria 381w

Hilling, Julie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Cost of Motor Insurance 234-7
Education Bill 633, 659
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 447
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Air Travel Organisers' Licence 564w
Airlines, Standards 565w
Crown Prosecution Service 696

Hinchingbrooke Hospital
443

Hinds, Damian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 592, 601, 604-5, 617-20, 624-5, 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 153wh
Questions
Class Sizes 42w
Schools, Assessments 46w
Schools, Repairs and Maintenance 684w
Solar Power, Finance 595w
Teachers 48w
Teachers, Training 291-2w

Hintze, Michael
670w

HIV Infection
245w
EU Action 610w
Greater London 245w

HM Courts and Tribunals Service
549w

HM Revenue and Customs
628w
Disclosure of Information 183w

Hoban, Mr Mark, Financial Secretary to the Treasury
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 196-9, 210-2

Hoban, Mr Mark—continued
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 170-4, 194-5
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 204-7wh
Written Statements
Banking Act 2009 Reporting 33-4ws
ECOFIN (18 November 2011) 33ws
Questions
Arms Trade, North Africa 427w
Bank Services, Sharia 704-5w
Banks, Finance 92w
Business, Loans 93w
Commodity Markets, Food 93w
Economic and Monetary Union 649w
Equitable Life Assurance Society, Compensation 97w, 639w
EU Grants and Loans 705w
European Union 639-40w
Financial Services, Complaints 640w
Individual Savings Accounts, Environment Protection 428w
Individual Savings Accounts, Stocks and Shares 98w
International Monetary Fund 641w
Loans, Republic of Ireland 339w
Pensions, Misrepresentation 642w
Personal Savings 99w

Hodge, Rt Hon Margaret
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
King George Hospital 2wh, 6wh, 11-4wh, 18wh, 21wh
Questions
Public Appointments 320-1w
Social Security Benefits 727w

Hodgson, Mrs Sharon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Children's Centres, Closures 415w

Hoey, Kate
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Immigration 421w
Renewable Energy, Employment 793w
Smoke Alarms, Procurement 703w

Hollingbery, George
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 165wh, 168-71wh
Questions
European Court of Human Rights 694-5

Hollobone, Mr Philip
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Border Control Scheme 706
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 40
Localism Bill 131
M5 Motorway Accident 75
Middle East and North Africa 304

Hollobone, Mr Philip—continued
UK Border Force 56
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 200wh
Questions
Civil Disorder 255w
Courts, Victims 530w
Crown Prosecution Service 697
Electoral Registration 678
Iran 571
Reoffending 151
Riot Control Weapons 179w
Topical Questions 688
UK Border Agency 13

Holloway, Mr Adam
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 131

Home Department
1, 6ws, 14ws, 39ws, 50w, 166w, 315w, 418w, 501w, 752w

Home Education
Vetting 544w

Home Office Guidance
420w

Homelessness
Ex-servicemen 656w

Honey
EU Law 499w

Honours and Decoration Committee
368w

Hopkins, Kelvin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 200, 206
Education Bill 659
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 179-81
G20 31
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 148-54wh, 156wh, 161wh, 163-4wh, 166-8wh, 174wh, 178wh
Questions
Ex-servicemen, Domestic Violence 526w
Ex-servicemen, Finance 748w
Fisheries 735
Foreign HGV Drivers 429
Legal Aid Scheme, Prisoners 550w
Offenders, Ex-servicemen 421w
Prisoners, Ex-servicemen 552w

Hopkins, Kris
Chamber Debates
Border Control Scheme 705
Business of the House 463-4
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 43
Localism Bill 131
UK Border Force 57
Youth Unemployment 407

Horn of Africa
Famine 150w

Horses
737w

Horwood, Martin
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 661
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 189-90
Localism Bill 131
Middle East and North Africa 304
Questions
Asylum, EU Countries 752w
British Nationals Abroad, Arrests 686w

Horwood, Martin—continued
British Nationals Abroad, Criminal Proceedings 687w
Civil Servants, European Union 114w
Civil Servants, Secondment 452w
Export Credits Guarantees, Libya 626w
First Aid, Curriculum 286w
NHS 486w
NHS, Pay 486w
Office of UK Permanent Representative to EU, Manpower 163w
Overseas Aid 152w
Yemen, Politics and Government 164w

Hosie, Stewart
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Fuel Prices 769-71
G20 34
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Crisis Loans 719w
Financial Services, Complaints 640w
PAYE 184w
Pensions, Misrepresentation 642w
Revenue and Customs 340w
Scottish Independence 270

Hospital Beds
246w

Hospitals
Accountability 134w
Consultants 611w
Eggs 246w
Food 134w
Hygiene 611w
Waiting Lists 246w

House of Commons Commission
181w, 373w, 672w

Housing
399w, 700w
Construction 22w, 657w, 699w
Visual Impairment 219w

Housing Benefit
334w, 725w
Foster Care 335w
Rural Areas 725w

Howarth, Mr George
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 330, 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 84, 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Freeview Service 495w
Ofcom 497w

Howarth, Mr Gerald, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence
Questions
Adam Werritty 76w, 518w, 740w

Howell, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 131
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 209wh
Questions
Heathrow Airport 577w
Personal Injury Law 254w

Hughes, Simon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 31
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 666
Localism Bill 131-2
Youth Unemployment 407

Hughes, Simon—continued
Questions
Corporate Boards (Female Representation) 441
Overseas Terrorism 158

Huhne, Rt Hon Chris
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634
Localism Bill 132

Human Trafficking
53w
Children 513w
Northern Ireland 54w

Hunt, Rt Hon Mr Jeremy
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 661
Questions
Public Appointments 320w

Hunt, Tristram
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 317, 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Local Government, Pensions 23w
Procurement 219w

Hunter, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 407

Hunting
Wild Boar 397w

Huppert, Dr Julian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 336, 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 447
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 74
UK Border Force 54
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Cluster Munitions, International Co-operation 648w
Commodity Markets, Food 93w
Counterfeit Manufacturing, Trade Agreements 103-4w
Cycling, Safety 187w
Deportation, Children 175w, 420w
Deportation, Offenders 52w, 176-7w
Diamorphine 131w
Engagements 276-7
Family Migration Route 9
Fats, Health Hazards 243w
Motorways, Accidents 57w
Railways, Freight 189w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 589w
Rural Bus Services 428
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 594-5w
Traffic Lights, Safety 406w

Hurd, Mr Nick, Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Written Statements
Review of the Charities Act 16ws
Questions
Big Society Capital 271w
Charities 114w, 272w
Charities, Hospices 765-6w
Construction, Jarrow 201w
Construction, Self-employed 296-7w
Death, Pancreatic Cancer 114-6w

Hurd, Mr Nick—continued
Divorce 534-5w
Natural Resources 538-9w
Public Sector, Part-time Employment 706w
Public Sector, Pay 706-7w
Skin Cancer 274-3w, 539-40w
Social Finance 273-4w
Suicide 118-9w
Unemployment 64-5w
Unemployment, Females 540-1w
Unemployment, Young People 120-1w
Voluntary Work, Young People 121-2w, 768-9w
Well-being 541-2w

Hydration
Hospitals 483w

Identity and Passport Service
759w

Illegal Immigrants
504w
Employment 505w

Illegal Immigration (Olympics)
11

Immigrants
Families 550w

Immigration
421w, 760w
Romania 760w
Scotland 506w

Immigration Controls
491w, 506w

Immigration Rules
6ws

Incapacity Benefits
209w

Income Support
210w
Lone Parents 210w, 441w

Income Tax
Tax Rates and Bands 705w

Incontinence
Health Services 483w

Independent Living Fund
326w

Independent Police Complaints Commission
813-20

Indeterminate Sentences
153

India
British Nationals Abroad 73w

Individual Savings Accounts
Environment Protection 428w
Stocks and Shares 98w

Industrial Health and Safety
Construction 442w
Fines 444w

Industry
Manpower 712w
Production 640w

Influenza
Vaccination 612w

Infrastructure
9ws

Injuries
Dog Attacks 612w

Innovation Fund
Young People 443w

Innovation Strategy
107w

Insolvency
110w, 183w, 304w
Complaints 305w

Insolvency Service
Finance 306w
Regulation 110w

Integration Strategy
217w

Interest Rates
640w

International Assistance
152w

International Development
143w, 274w, 369w, 431w, 632w, 751w

International Monetary Fund
641w

Internet Governance Forum
Security 495w

Internet Regulation (Material Inciting Gang Violence) Bill 2010-12 (First Reading)
(08.11.2011) 167

Internships
15-6w, 29w, 72w, 82w, 86w, 96w, 130w, 272w, 302w, 439w, 516w, 575w

Invalid Vehicles
772w
Accidents 188w, 578w
Eyesight 578w, 773w

Inward Investment
513w

Iran
571, 749w
Baha'i Faith 161w
Human Rights 372w

Iraq
Peacekeeping Operations 233w

IRG
372w, 527w

Iron and Steel
Competition 378w

Irranca-Davies, Huw
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Agricultural Wages Board 729w
Bovine Tuberculosis, Disease Control 4-6w, 731w
Dangerous Dogs 419w, 501w
Dangerous Dogs, Prosecutions 548w
Food, Hygiene 499w
Food, Prices 226w
Injuries, Dog Attacks 612w
Middle East, Reconciliation 693w
Mobile Phones, Aerials 641w
Public Sector, Dangerous Dogs 768w
Topical Questions 162

Israel
Agriculture 636w
Embassies 690w
Joint Exercises 528w

IVF
816w

Jackson, Glenda
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362

Jackson, Glenda—continued
Education Bill 633, 659
G20 30
UK Border Force 60
Youth Unemployment 405

Jackson, Mr Stewart
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 331, 363
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 42-3
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 188wh
Questions
Illegal Immigrants 504w
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Finance 139w
Regional Growth Fund 379w
Tenants, East of England 704w
Turkey, EU Enlargement 651w

James, Margot
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 316, 334, 339-41, 363
Education Bill 634, 646, 661
G20 38
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 162-5wh
Questions
Afghanistan 568

James Paget Hospital
Sick Leave 816w

Jamieson, Cathy
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Armed Forces, Suicide 231w
Armed Forces, Training 78w, 520w
Armed Forces, Young People 79w
Developing Countries, Disease Control 635w
Engagements 284
Roads, Railways 580w
Topical Questions 434

Japanese Knotweed
329w

Jarvis, Dan
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 501-4
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Arts 84-5w, 492w, 666-7w
Arts Council England 667w
Arts, Taxation 397w
Arts, Teachers 284w
Chief Coroner 423w
Creative Industries Council 493-4w
Cultural Heritage 494w
Cultural Quarter 668w
Culture, Education 668w
Design, Costs 494w, 511w
Design Services 582w, 634w, 665-6w, 696w, 705w, 766w, 810w
Excise Duties, National Lottery 97w
Grant Funding 494w
Museums and Galleries 86-7w
Museums and Galleries, Schools 496w
National Lottery, Tickets 87w
Pensions 726w
Theatres, Voluntary Work 671w
VAT, Hotels 185w

Javid, Sajid
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 314
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
UK Border Force 56
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Topical Questions 572
Victim Support 146

Jenkin, Mr Bernard
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 36
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Coalition Agreement 681
Departmental Judicial Review 787w
Judicial Review 511w, 665w, 669w
Medicine, Higher Education 485w
Public Appointments 271w

Job Creation
378w

Jobcentre Plus
443w
Manpower 444w
Merseyside 62w

Johnson, Diana
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Defence Manufacturing 569-70
Invalid Vehicles 772w
Life Skills 682w
Smoking, Motor Vehicles 823w
Topical Questions 162

Johnson, Gareth
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363
Education Bill 634, 661
Fuel Prices 776
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 23-6wh, 39wh
Questions
Child Tax Credit 638w
Grammar Schools 287w

Johnson, Joseph
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 363-4
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 41
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Engagements 284
Lighting 10w

Johnson, Rt Hon Alan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 324-7, 362
Education Bill 633
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Joint Ministerial Committee
514w

Jones, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 456
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Jones, Graham
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Cost of Motor Insurance 241
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 761, 788-9
Localism Bill 87, 96-101, 104, 130
Metal Theft (Prevention) 708
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Topical Questions 574
Train Punctuality 430

Jones, Helen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 80-2, 85, 88-92, 94, 115-6, 130
UK Border Force 59
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Ambulance Services, Warrington 597w, 804w
Blood, Merseyside 805w
Civil Nuclear Constabulary 581w
Enterprise Zones 21w
Higher Education 109w
Manufacturing Industries, Non-domestic Rates 23w
MOD Police and Guarding Agency 750w
NHS 614w, 819w
Non-domestic Rates 23w
Surgery, Manpower 490w
Surgery, Warrington 490w
Urban Areas, Finance 25w

Jones, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 661
Questions
Adam Werritty 709w
Adam Werrity 165w
Animal Welfare 509w
Anti-Semitism 709w
Bell Pottinger Group 709-10w
Bovine Tuberculosis, Disease Control 509-10w
Charities 10-1w
Communication 710w
Consultants 11w
Creative Industries 710w
Departmental Assets 510w
Departmental Billing 510-1w
Departmental Buildings 710w
Departmental Pay 14w
Departmental Training 711w
Design, Costs 511w
Drugs 512-3w
Electrification 513w
Farmers 712w
Freedom of Information Requests 12-0w, 12-3w
High Speed 2 Railway Line 712w
Human Trafficking, Children 513w
Industry, Manpower 712-3w
Internships 15w, 516w
Judicial Review 511w
Legal Opinion 514w
Legal Opinion, Costs 13-4w
Ministerial Meetings 711w
Ministerial Photographs 711w
Official Hospitality 710-1w
Parliamentary Questions 403w
Press, Subscriptions 511-2w
Public Sector Employee Bids 15w
Public Sector, Pay 165-6w, 511w, 514w
Secondary Legislation 14-5w
Security 514-5w
Security Vetting 512w, 711w
Social Security Benefits 515w
Telephone Services 515w
Third Sector 713w

Jones, Mr David—continued
Unemployment 515-6w
Written Questions 403w
Young Offenders 15w
Youth Parliament 713w

Jones, Mr Kevan
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 478-86, 490, 521
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Border Control Scheme 705
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Accountancy, EU Law 143w
Adam Werritty 15w, 26w, 157w, 194w, 228-9w, 236w, 263w, 318w, 431w, 433w, 694-5w, 729w, 740w
Adam Werrity 165w
Disclosure of Information 525-6w
IRG 372w, 527w
Lord Astor of Hever 528w
Michael Hintze 670w
Ministerial Meetings 148w
Ministerial Responsibilities 523w
Piracy 564
Sri Lanka 529w
Sudan 411-2w
Sudan, Foreign Investment 651w
Topical Questions 573

Jones, Mr Marcus
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Fuel Prices 788-90, 802
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 368, 407
Westminster Hall
Adoption 75-6wh
Organ Donation 97-8wh
Questions
Fisheries 721

Jones, Susan Elan
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 506-7
Border Checks Summer 2011 362-3
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 758
Localism Bill 130-1
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Adoption 75wh

Jowell, Rt Hon Tessa
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Terrorism, Compensation 784w

Joyce, Eric
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Business of the House 455-6
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Judicial Review
511w, 665w, 669w

Justice
143, 40ws, 26w, 254w, 383w, 423w, 544w, 779w

Kaufman, Sir Gerald
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 312, 334-5, 362
Border Control Scheme 701
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130

Kaufman, Sir Gerald—continued
Middle East and North Africa 300
UK Border Force 55
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Members, Correspondence 262w, 706w
Palestinians, UNESCO 74w

Kawczynski, Daniel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Fuel Prices 744
Localism Bill 132
Middle East and North Africa 303
Youth Unemployment 407

Keeley, Barbara
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 143-7wh, 149wh, 155wh, 157wh, 161wh, 174wh, 177wh
Questions
Police Forces (Collaboration) 7

Kelly, Chris
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 76
UK Border Force 54-5
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Government Procurement Card 367w

Kendall, Liz
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 443-5, 451
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 171-5wh
Questions
Care Homes 125w
Care to Learn Programme 674w
Health Services, Older People 608w
Hospital Beds 246w
Hospitals, Waiting Lists 246w
Southern Cross Healthcare 141-2w
Suicide 118w

Kennedy, Rt Hon Mr Charles
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 661

Kenya
Human Rights 372w
Kidnapping 649w

Keynsham Railway Station Access
410

Khan, Sadiq
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Political Party Funding 683
Prison Population 149-50
Teachers, Pensions 50w, 290w
Topical Questions 159

King George Hospital
1wh

Kirby, Simon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132

Kirby, Simon—continued
Travellers (Unauthorised Encampments) 308
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Electoral Register 764w

Knight, Rt Hon Mr Greg
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 637, 640-2, 661
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Equatorial Guinea, Overseas Aid 278w
MOT Tests 424
Parliament Week, Costs 672w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 797w
State Retirement Pensions, Overseas Residence 728w

Knives
Crime 5, 152, 30w, 50w, 506w, 760w

Kosovo
Borders 691w
Peacekeeping Operations 692w

Kwarteng, Kwasi
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cost of Motor Insurance 221
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Kyrgyzstan
Overseas Aid 369w, 432w

Laing, Mrs Eleanor
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634
G20 41
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Corporate Boards (Female Representation) 440-1
Scottish Independence 270

***Lamb, Norman**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 634, 661
Youth Unemployment 408

Lammy, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Independent Police Complaints Commission 813-7
Localism Bill 130
Questions
Civil Disorder 52w, 171w
Federation of Student Islamic Societies 272-3w
Public Disorder (Tottenham) 14

Lancaster, Mark
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 477, 505, 507-10, 524
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 457
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Doctors, Pay 813w
Health Services, Overseas Visitors 814w
Planning Permission, Milton Keynes 23w
Radio Licensing 89w

Lancaster, Mark—continued
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 589w
Sports, Clubs 671w
Topical Questions 577
Wind Power 596w

Lansley, Rt Hon Mr Andrew, Secretary of State for Health
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Written Statements
UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy 25ws

Large Goods Vehicles
773w
Accidents 774w

Latham, Pauline
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Questions
Somalia, Piracy 529w
Topical Questions 18

Lavery, Ian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 396-7, 405
Questions
Police Funding Settlement 15
Prisons, Conditions of Employment 392-3w

Laws, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 66
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
GCSE 45w

Lay Magistrates
155

Lazarowicz, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Youth Unemployment 391-2, 397, 405
Questions
Fisheries 713, 725

Leader of the House
68w, 497w

Leadsom, Andrea
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 172
Fuel Prices 795
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Criminal Records 753w
Older People, Carers 251w
State Retirement Pensions, Carers 211w

Learning Disability
98w, 247w

Lee, Dr Phillip
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Lee, Jessica
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364

Lee, Jessica—continued
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Adoption 73-81wh

Leech, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Learning Disability 98w
MOT Tests 424-5

Lefroy, Jeremy
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cluster Munitions 416
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
UN Convention, Watercourses 739w

Legal Aid for Gypsies and Travellers
664

Legal Aid Scheme
389w
Prisoners 261w, 389w, 550w

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill 2010-12
551w

Legal Aid (Social Welfare)
143

Legal Opinion
9w, 16w, 31w, 60w, 82w, 126w, 159w, 177w, 197w, 203w, 261w, 306w, 371w, 435w, 514w
Costs 13w, 410w, 415w, 568w

Legislation
Parliamentary Scrutiny 498w

Leigh, Mr Edward
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 469
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 33
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 201wh
Questions
Engagements 280
Succession to the Throne 679

Leslie, Charlotte
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
English Baccalaureate 382w
Fire Services 700w
MoveUK 702w
Prisoners, Location 390-1w
Rates and Rating, Ealing 703w
Sexual Offences, Rehabilitation 394w

Leslie, Chris
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 199-202, 211-2
Education Bill 633, 659
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 175-8, 190-1
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Leslie, Chris—continued
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 202-4wh
Questions
Engagements 282

Letwin, Rt Hon Mr Oliver
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
Localism Bill 132
Questions
Environment Protection 537w

Lewis, Brandon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 317, 326, 364
Fuel Prices 744
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Health Services, Older People 133-4w
Hospitals, Accountability 134w
Hospitals, Food 134w
James Paget Hospital, Sick Leave 816w

Lewis, Dr Julian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634, 661
G20 35
Localism Bill 132
Patient Security (Mental Health System) 136
Woodhaven Hospital 549-54
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Armed Forces, Members 742w
Libya (Aircraft Carrier Capability) 560
Pensions, Teachers 63w
Ports, Liverpool 188w
Teachers, Pensions 48-9w

Lewis, Mr Ivan
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 130
Questions
British Overseas Territories 158w
International Assistance 152w
Overseas Aid 278w
St Helena, Airports 279-81w
St Helena, Overseas Aid 282w

Libya
517w, 568
Armed Conflict 234w
Human Rights 649w

Libya (Aircraft Carrier Capability)
559

Licensing Act 2003
507w

Licensing Laws
Olympic Games 2012 317w

Liddell-Grainger, Mr Ian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 634-5, 661
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 65-6
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Armed Forces, Recruitment 78w
Insolvency 183w, 304w

Lidington, Rt Hon Mr David, Minister for Europe
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cluster Munitions 416-20
Education Bill 635, 661
Youth Unemployment 407

Lidington, Rt Hon Mr David—continued
Written Statements
Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council 21-4ws
Questions
Adam Werritty 157w
Balkans 686w
Bell Pottinger Group 686w
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Politics and Government 646-7w
Charities 69w
Civil Servants, Secondment 452-3w
Departmental Assets 69w, 648-9w
European Union, Powers 73w
Foreign Relations 649w
Freedom of Information Requests 158-9w, 371w
Kosovo, Borders 691-2w
Kosovo, Peacekeeping Operations 692w
Legal Opinion 159-60w, 371w
Legal Opinion, Costs 410-1w
Lost Property 160w
Parliamentary Questions 161w
Secondary Legislation 160-1w
Serbia, EU Enlargement 75w
Stephen Crouch 694w
Strategic Defence and Security Review 163-4w
Tony Buckingham 651w
Turkey, EU Enlargement 651w
Written Questions 371-2w, 411w

Life Skills
682w

Lighting
10w
Health Hazards 248w
Pollution 585w

Lilley, Rt Hon Mr Peter
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Lip-reading
629w

Liquefied Gas
791w

Lloyd, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 771
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Child Support Agency 553w
Telephone Helplines 7w, 70w, 344w, 574w
Work Capability Assessment 66w

Lloyd, Tony
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Border Control Scheme 702
Education Bill 633, 659
Middle East and North Africa 304
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Hair Dyes, Chemicals 133w, 303w
Topical Questions 20

Llwyd, Rt Hon Mr Elfyn
Chamber Debates
Fuel Prices 780-2
Localism Bill 130
Questions
East Sutton Park Prison, Discipline 389w
Industry, Manpower 712w

Llwyd, Rt Hon Mr Elfyn—continued
Legal Aid Scheme, Prisoners 261w, 389-90w
Offenders, Ex-servicemen 33w
Prisoners, Per Capita Costs 426w
Prisons, Discipline 393w
Public Expenditure 340w
Sexual Violence 317-8w
Victim Support 147
Young Offenders 15w
Young Offenders, Wales 55w

Loans
Republic of Ireland 339w

Lobbying
122w, 283w

Local Enterprise Partnerships
Wiltshire 658w
Worcestershire 22w

Local Government
658w
Databases 659w
Eggs 400w
Internet 22w
Maladministration 335w
Pensions 23w, 336w, 659w, 701w
Public Consultation 701w

Local Government Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2010-12
22w

Local Government Services
682w

Localism Bill 2010-12 (Money Resolution, Programme Motion and Lords Amendments)
76-133

Locums
484w

London Local Authorities and Transport for London (No. 2) Bill [Lords] 2007-08 (Second Reading Order Read)
143
677

London Local Authorities Bill [Lords] 2007-08 (Order for Consideration Read)
143
677

Long, Naomi
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Algeria, Christianity 68w
Human Trafficking, Northern Ireland 54w

Lopresti, Jack
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 223-6wh
Questions
Entry Clearances 177w
Topical Questions 432-3
Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle 567

Lord, Jonathan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Topical Questions 573

Lost Property
104w, 160w, 175w, 241w, 260w, 571w

Loughton, Tim
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 661
Questions
Adam Werritty 284w
Adoption 39-42w, 284w, 542-1w
Carers, Grandparents 414-5w, 541-2w
Child Protection 677-8w
Children in Care 42w
Consultants 43w
Data Protection 285w
Departmental Billing 542-3w
Departmental Lost Property 43w
Freedom of Information Requests 543w
Grandparents 288w, 415w
Home Education, Vetting 544w
Legal Opinion, Costs 415-6w
New Schools Network 45-6w
Press, Subscriptions 43w
Public Sector, Pay 285w
School Sports 416-7w
Security Vetting 44w, 286w
Special Advisers 415w

Love, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
G20 39
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Turkey, Earthquakes 75w, 156w

Lucas, Caroline
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Questions
Animal Welfare, Circuses 220-1w
Aviation, Security 56w
AWE, Radioactive Waste 364w
Financial Services 504w
Health Care Incentives 354w
Palliative Care 487w
Pupils, Bullying 46w
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 794w

Lucas, Ian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Adam Werritty 518w
Alcoholic Drinks, Misuse 315w
Crimes of Violence, Nightclubs 316w
Democratic Republic of Congo, Elections 688-9w
Drinks, Regulation 353w
Exports, Licensing 801w
Feed-in Tariffs, Business 347w
Feed-in Tariffs, Housing 264w
Foreign Relations 649w
Green Deal Scheme 585w
Independent Living Fund 326w
Libya (Aircraft Carrier Capability) 560
Ministerial Meetings 162w
Nuclear Suppliers Group 801w
Plastics 379w
Recycling, Glass 739w
Social Security Benefits, Disability 63w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 269w

Luff, Peter, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Afghanistan 568-9

Luff, Peter—continued
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping Operations 519w
Afghanistan, Unmanned Air Vehicles 362w
Aircraft Carriers 741w
Armoured Fighting Vehicles 364w
AWE, Radioactive Waste 364w
Consultants 746w
Counter-terrorism, Research 521w
Defence Equipment 413w, 521w
Defence Equipment, Gibraltar 414w
Defence, Finance 521-2w
Defence Manufacturing 570-1
Defence, Procurement 743-4w
EADS 517-8w
Government Procurement Card 367-8w
Military Aircraft, Helicopters 414-3w
Navy 413-4w, 529w
Navy, Animal Experiments 750-1w
Terms of Business Agreement 561
Topical Questions 574
Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle 567-8

Lumley, Karen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 222wh
Questions
Arthritis 237w
Balkans 686w
Care Homes 808w
Carers, Employment 238w
Engagements 284
Knives, Crime 761w
Local Enterprise Partnerships, Worcestershire 22w
Serbia, EU Enlargement 75w
Sexual and Alcohol-related Violence 358w
Topical Questions 435

M5 Motorway Accident
62

McCabe, Steve
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 349-50, 362
Education Bill 633, 659
G20 41
Localism Bill 130
Points of Order 166
UK Border Force 56
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Family Migration Route 9
Indeterminate Sentences 153

McCann, Mr Michael
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 776-7, 779, 797, 799
Localism Bill 130
UK Border Force 55
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Israel, Agriculture 636w
Israel, Embassies 690w
Israel, Joint Exercises 528w
Middle East, Armed Conflict 692w
Pensions 557w

McCarthy, Kerry
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

McCarthy, Kerry—continued
Questions
Animal Experiments 166w
Animal Experiments, EU Law 167w

McCartney, Jason
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 789
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 666, 670
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Organ Donation 99wh
Questions
EU Operational Headquarters 561-2
Procurement 106w

McCartney, Karl
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cost of Motor Insurance 220-5, 231, 238, 256
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Data Security 672w
Gangs 3-4
Members, Surveillance 501w
Political Party Funding 683
Railways, Repairs and Maintenance 190w
Topical Questions 21, 686

McClymont, Gregg
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 756
Localism Bill 130

McCrea, Dr William
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 359, 362
Education Bill 633, 661
Youth Unemployment 382
Westminster Hall
Obesity 113wh

McDonagh, Siobhain
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Youth Unemployment 405

McDonnell, Dr Alasdair
Questions
Bank Services 181w

McDonnell, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Cost of Motor Insurance 244-7
Education Bill 633, 659
Independent Police Complaints Commission 817, 819
Localism Bill 109-11, 119-20, 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 231-2wh
Questions
Approved Premises, Per Capita Costs 545w
Birmingham Prison 26w
Community Orders, Per Capita Costs 384-5w
Legal Aid Scheme, Prisoners 550w
News International 496w, 765w
Prisoners, Per Capita Costs 391w
Prisons, Private Sector 34w, 262w
Topical Questions 577

McFadden, Rt Hon Mr Pat
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

McGovern, Jim
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Youth Unemployment 405

McGuire, Rt Hon Mrs Anne
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Disability, Driving 720w
Motability 326-7w
Personal Independence Payments 211w
Unemployment 276

McIntosh, Miss Anne
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Animals, Disease Control 4w, 10w
Crime, Rural Areas 171w
Fisheries 275, 715-6, 719
Legal Aid Scheme 389w
Parliamentary Reform 763w
Planning Permission 661w
Police Numbers 16
Reservoirs, Safety 398w
Topical Questions 436-7, 690

McKechin, Ann
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
UK Border Force 57
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Immigration Controls 491w
Immigration, Scotland 506w

McKinnell, Catherine
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Adoption 90-3wh
Questions
Adoption 39-41w
Children in Care 42w
Voluntary Work, Young People 121-2w, 768w

Macleod, Mary
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 456
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 218-9wh, 225wh, 230wh, 233wh
Questions
Libya (Aircraft Carrier Capability) 559

McLoughlin, Rt Hon Mr Patrick
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

MacNeil, Mr Angus Brendan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Fuel Prices 754, 770, 784-5, 810-1
Questions
Excise Duties, Fuels 97w
Fisheries 714, 726-7, 731
Shipping, Safety 59w
The Union 271

McPartland, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 607, 611, 622-6, 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 38wh
Questions
Medicine, Prices 817w

MacShane, Mr Denis
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 171-3, 176, 179, 188-9
Middle East and North Africa 305
Youth Unemployment 373-4, 405
Questions
Libya (Aircraft Carrier Capability) 561
Schools, Dogs 46w

Mactaggart, Fiona
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Locums 484w
Rehabilitation 155
Teachers, Pensions 49w, 290w

McVey, Esther
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 758, 771
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Adoption 83-6wh, 96wh
Grammar Schools 34-5wh, 38wh
Questions
Taxation, Environment Protection 643w

Magistrates' Courts
Rural Areas 33w

Mahmood, Mr Khalid
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659

Mahmood, Shabana
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Asylum, Employment 170w
Banks, Loans 293w
Business, Entry Clearances 102w, 459w
Domestic Violence, Immigrants 502w
Education Maintenance Allowance, Birmingham 286w
English Baccalaureate, Chinese Language 45w
Higher Education 108w
Higher Education, Ethnic Groups 627w
Illegal Immigrants, Employment 505w
Schools, Pupils 684w
Students, Fees and Charges 113w
Students, Loans 632w
Students, Sponsorship 632w

Main, Mrs Anne
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 174, 184
Localism Bill 132
UK Border Force 51
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Renewable Energy, Heating 267w

Major Projects Authority
326w, 458w

Malaysia
Military Decorations 749w

Malnutrition
355w

Mann, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Adam Werritty 76w, 518w
Bell Pottinger Group 331w, 342w, 400w, 402w, 452w, 491w, 493w, 497w, 520w, 530-1w, 546w, 599w, 632w, 686w, 695w, 709w, 784w
Members, Correspondence 673w
Members' Interests 767w
Police 422w
Schools, Polling Stations 530w
Stephen Crouch 694w
Tony Buckingham 651w
Travel, Costs 733w

Manufactured Goods
Origin Marking 307w

Manufacturing Industries
Non-domestic Rates 23w

Marine Conservation Zones
35ws

Marketing
365w, 436w, 522w

Marsden, Mr Gordon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Growing Places Fund 399w, 466w
Regional Growth Fund 111-2w, 308w, 470-1w
Regional Growth Fund, Job Creation 112w

Maternity Services
Finance 816w

Mathematics
Science 288w

Maude, Rt Hon Mr Francis, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635
Written Statements
Post-legislative Scrutiny of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 19ws
Questions
Advertising, Job Vacancies 533-4w
Bell Pottinger Group 452w
Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Finance 452w
Civil Servants, European Union 114w
Civil Servants, Pensions 533w

Maude, Rt Hon Mr Francis—continued
Civil Servants, Redundancy 533w
Co-operatives 454w
Contracts, JCB 458-7w
Defence, Procurement 454w
Departmental Public Expenditure 117w
Departmental Responsibilities 766-7w
Departmental Training 454w
Design Services 766w
Domestic Horizon Scanning Committee 454w
Duchy of Lancaster, Estate Agents 535w
Duchy of Lancaster, Farms 535-6w
ElcomSoft 272w
Emergencies 454-6w
European Union 767w
Federation of Student Islamic Societies 272-3w
Freedom of Information 457-8w
Freedom of Information Requests 116w
Government Contracts, Deloitte 538-7w
Government Departments, Internet 767w
Health, Cabinet Committees 482-3w
Internships 272w
Major Projects Authority 458-9w
Members' Interests 767w
Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme 273-4w
Procurement 457-8w
Public Sector, Carbon Emissions 767-8w
Public Sector, Dangerous Dogs 768w
Public Sector, Procurement 117-8w
Public Sector Transparency Board 459w
Resilience and Emergencies, Cabinet Committees 456w
Resilience and Emergencies, Training 456-7w
Security Vetting 117w
Tony Blair 271w
Travel, Costs 534w

May, Mrs Theresa, Secretary of State for the Home Department
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 318-24, 364
UK Border Force 44-6, 48-61
Written Statements
Deportation with Assurances 14ws
Misuse of Drugs 39-40ws
Questions
Business Start-ups 437-8
Corporate Boards (Female Representation) 440-1
Foreign Students 1-3
Gangs 3-5
Gangs (London) 14-5
Police Forces (Collaboration) 7-8
Topical Questions 17-22

Maynard, Paul
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 372, 389-90, 400, 407
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 217wh, 229-31wh
Questions
Railway Stations 426

Mayors
Liverpool 660w

Meacher, Rt Hon Mr Michael
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Meacher, Rt Hon Mr Michael—continued
Questions
Banks, Finance 92w
Taxation 99w

Meale, Sir Alan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Mearns, Ian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
MOT Tests 423-4
Schools, Vocational Guidance 289-90w, 382-3w, 685w

Medical Equipment
484w

Medical Treatments
VAT 248w

Medicine
Higher Education 485w
Prices 817w

Members
Correspondence 54w, 262w, 673w, 706w, 762w
Surveillance 501w

Members' Interests
767w

Mensch, Louise
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 607, 635, 661
G20 34
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Mental Health
817w

Mental Health Services
Ex-servicemen 613w

Menzies, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Defence Manufacturing 571
Fisheries, Ribble Estuary 736w
Manufactured Goods, Origin Marking 307w
The Union 271

Mercer, Patrick
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Questions
Export Credits Guarantees 377w
Export Credits Guarantees, Egypt 377w

Metal Theft
35w, 188w, 339w, 378w, 405w

Metal Theft (Prevention)
708

Metcalfe, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Metcalfe, Stephen—continued
Questions
Topical Questions 22
War Memorials 566

Michael, Alun
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 337, 341-3, 345, 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
UK Border Force 52
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Topical Questions 434
Victim Support 146

Middle East
Armed Conflict 162w, 692w
Reconciliation 693w

Middle East and North Africa
288

Miliband, David
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 633, 659
G20 29-30

Miliband, Edward
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
G20 26-7
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Engagements 277-9

Military Aid
Equipment 749w

Military Aircraft
234w
Helicopters 414w

Military Bases
Chelsfield 528w
Radiation Exposure 750w

Miller, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Business of the House 456
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 752
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Harbour Authorities 56-7w

Miller, Maria
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Questions
Carer's Allowance 338-9w
Carers, Employment 238-9w
Carers, Grandparents 199w
Child Maintenance 200-1w
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission 199w, 324w, 553w
Child Support Agency 553-4w
Children, Day Care 714w
Disability Allowance 206w
Disability, Driving 720-1w
Disability Living Allowance 720w
Driving, Disabled 207w
Employment and Support Allowance 62w
Employment, Disability 325-6w
Independent Living Fund 326w
Motability 326-7w
Personal Independence Payments 211w
Social Security Benefits, Disability 63-4w

Mills, Nigel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 798-800
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Milton, Anne
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 661
Questions
Abortion, Northern Ireland 597w
Air Pollution 597w
Alcoholic Drinks, Misuse 236w
Alcoholic Drinks, Prices 237w
Baby Care Units 598-9w
Cancer, Wigs 807w
Cannabis, Mental Illness 600-1w
Change4Life 809w
Diamorphine 131w
Dietary Supplements, Channel Islands 131-2w
Disability, Children 811-3w
Drugs, Misuse 814w
Fats, Health Hazards 243w
Health Inequality 244w
Health Protection Agency 244-5w
Health Services, Overseas Visitors 608-9w, 814-5w
Hepatitis 245w
HIV Infection, EU Action 610-1w
Hospitals, Accountability 134w
Hospitals, Food 135w
Influenza, Vaccination 612w
IVF 816w
Lighting, Health Hazards 248w
Lighting, Pollution 585-6w
Maternity Services, Finance 816-7w
Musculoskeletal Disorders 249-50w
NHS 819w
NHS, Disclosure of Information 819w
NHS Reorganisation 137w
NHS, Sexual Offences 821w
Nurses 616w
Obesity 487w
Obesity, Health Services 138-7w, 617w
Organ, Donors 617w
Public Health England 252w
School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme 823w
Sexual and Alcohol-related Violence 358w
Sickle Cell Diseases 619-20w
Skin Cancer 140w, 620w
Smoking 620w
Smoking, Motor Vehicles 823-4w
Speech and Language Disorders, Health Services 253w
Sport, Schools 620-1w
Tuberculosis 143w

Ministerial Meetings
1w, 148w, 162w, 232w, 241w, 711w

Ministerial Photographs
711w

Ministerial Policy Advisers
124w, 308w, 445w
Manpower 673w

Ministerial Responsibilities
523w

Ministers
Equality 401w

Mitchell, Austin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Adam Werritty 228w

Mitchell, Austin—continued
Departmental Public Expenditure 116w, 147w, 260w, 522w, 572w
Fisheries 721-3

Mitchell, Rt Hon Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 132
Questions
Adam Werritty 431w
Afghanistan, Females 144w, 274-5w
Afghanistan, Mortality Rates 275w
Bell Pottinger Group 633w
Burma, Children 144w
Burma, Overseas Aid 144-5w, 276w, 633w, 751-2w
CDC 145w
CDC, Disclosure of Information 145-6w
Democratic Republic of Congo, Overseas Aid 633-4w
Departmental Public Expenditure 147w
Departmental Written Questions 277w
Developing Countries, Economic Situation 277w
Developing Countries, Family Planning 636w
Developing Countries, Teachers 277-8w
East Africa, Droughts 149w
Famine, International Co-operation 150w
Freedom of Information Requests 146-7w
Global Population 153-4w
Horn of Africa, Famine 150-2w
International Assistance 152w
Israel, Agriculture 636-7w
Ministerial Meetings 148w
Overseas Aid 152-3w
Overseas Aid, Developing Countries 153w
Parliamentary Questions 635w
Somalia, Cholera 154w
Somalia, Overseas Aid 154-6w
Somaliland, Overseas Aid 432-3w
South Sudan, Overseas Aid 637w
Written Questions 635w

Mobile Phones
86w
Aerials 641w

Mobile Telephone Coverage
322w

MOD Police and Guarding Agency
750w

Modernising the Personal Tax System
27ws

Monuments
Chartism 373w

Moon, Mrs Madeleine
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 472, 474-5, 495-8, 501, 518
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Business of the House 459
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping Operations 519w
Armed Forces, Housing 77w
Company Accounts 295w
Defence Equipment 232w, 412w, 521w
Employment and Support Allowance 207w
Honours and Decoration Committee 368w
Iraq, Peacekeeping Operations 233w
Malaysia, Military Decorations 749w

Moon, Mrs Madeleine—continued
Military Aircraft 234w
Pensions, Misrepresentation 552w
Rehabilitation 155
Topical Questions 19
Type 23 Frigates 751w
Young Offenders, Drugs and Alcohol 254w

Moore, Rt Hon Michael, Secretary of State for Scotland
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Carbon Capture and Storage 274-5
Construction Sector 267-9
Energy Prices 272-3
Scottish Independence 269-70
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises 313w
The Union 271-2

Mordaunt, Penny
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 471-2, 538-9
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 459
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 138wh, 141wh
Questions
Libya (Aircraft Carrier Capability) 559
Palliative Care, Finance 617w
Parliamentary Reform 763w
Topical Questions 433, 574

Morden, Jessica
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Chief Coroner 557-8
Domestic Violence 697-8
Identity and Passport Service 759-60w
Invalid Vehicles, Accidents 188w
Monuments, Chartism 373w
Passports, Fraud 421w
Police Numbers 16
Seized Articles, Landfill 55w
Teachers, Pensions 50w
Topical Questions 162
Welsh Grand Committee, Wrexham 181w

Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust
Complaints 818w

Morgan, Nicky
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Patient Security (Mental Health System) 135-9
Youth Unemployment 407

Morrice, Graeme
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 759-60
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Extradition 691
Legal Aid (Social Welfare) 143-4
Police Numbers 16
Welfare Reform Bill 314w

Morris, Anne Marie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 792
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Morris, David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Breast Cancer, Screening 806w
Cancer, Wigs 807w
Caravans, Testing 770w
Foreign Students 1-2
IVF 816w
Liquefied Gas 791w
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust, Complaints 818w
Public Sector Land 335w
Social Rented Housing 337w
Topical Questions 684

Morris, Grahame M. (Easington)
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Points of Order 166, 580
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Disability, Children 811-3w
Health, Cabinet Committees 482w
Health Inequality 243-4w
Health Protection Agency 244w
Public Health England 252w
Radiotherapy 618-9w

Morris, James
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 464
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Middle East and North Africa 306
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Adoption 84wh
Fire Service (Halesowen and Rowley Regis) 130-3wh

Mosley, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
UK Border Force 58
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Service Families (Education) 569
Topical Questions 19

MOT Tests
423

Motability
326w

Motorways
Accidents 57w
Speed Limits 774w

MoveUK
702w

Mowat, David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Mudie, Mr George
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Mulholland, Greg
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 665-73
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Young Offender Institutions 145
Petitions
Wharfedale Hospital Ward 1 (Otley, West Yorkshire) 2p

Multiple Occupation
660w

Mundell, Rt Hon David, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Adam Werritty 36w, 194w
Apprenticeships 314w
Bell Pottinger Group 491w
Businesses, Economic Environment 313w
Charities 194w
Departmental Administrative Costs 270-1
Design Services 665w
Electoral Commission Report 273-4
Fisheries 275
Freedom of Information Requests 36-9w
Immigration Controls 491w
Judicial Review 665-6w
Parliamentary Questions 314w
Sovereignty 666w
Unemployment 276
Unemployment, Females 315w
Welfare Reform Bill 314w
Written Questions 314-5w

Munn, Meg
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
M5 Motorway Accident 67
Middle East and North Africa 306
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Adoption 284w, 542w
Freedom of Information 146
Iran, Baha'i Faith 161-2w

Munt, Tessa
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cost of Motor Insurance 246
Education Bill 661
Fuel Prices 748, 762, 792
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 68
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Iran, Human Rights 372w
Surviving Winter Appeal 282
Topical Questions 435-6

Murphy, Rt Hon Mr Jim
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130

Murphy, Rt Hon Mr Jim—continued
Questions
Adam Werritty 101w, 383-4w, 518w
Afghanistan 566
Armed Forces, Pay 363w
Consultants 746w
Libya, Armed Conflict 234w
Marketing 365w, 522w
Topical Questions 572-3

Murphy, Rt Hon Paul
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Murray, Ian
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 633, 659
Questions
Unemployment, Females 315w

Murray, Sheryll
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 514, 528-30
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 770, 796
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Fisheries 732-3, 736, 738
Topical Questions 689

Murrison, Dr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 476, 484, 498-501, 505
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 72
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Chief Coroner 558

Musculoskeletal Disorders
249w

Museums and Galleries
86w
Schools 496w

Music
Education 45w, 289w

Nandy, Lisa
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Fuel Prices 803
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Care to Learn Programme 674w
Detention Centres, Children 758w
Free Schools 681w
Free Schools, Finance 287w
New Schools Network 289w
Special Advisers 415w
Topical Questions 688

Nanotechnology
111w

Nash, Pamela
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Reservists 517w
Topical Questions 686

National Lottery
Tickets 87w

National Planning Policy Framework
88w

Natural Capital Committee
37ws

Natural Gas
Exploration 2w, 586w

Natural Resources
537w

Nature Conservation
738w
Crime 55w

Navy
413w, 529w
Animal Experiments 750w

***Neill, Robert**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 90, 97-8, 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Basement Developments 68-72wh
Fire Service (Halesowen and Rowley Regis) 133-6wh
Planning Guidance (Northumberland) 252-6wh
Questions
Adam Werritty 695w
Animal Experiments 330w
Audit Commission 330-1w
Bell Pottinger Group 331w, 695w
Betting Shops, Licensing 18w
Capabilities Programme 333w
Consultants 696w
Council Tax 695-6w
Council Tax, Swindon 18-9w
Departmental Mobile Phones 697w
Departmental Press, Subscriptions 331-2w
Departmental Regulations 332w
Design Services 696w
Domestic Waste, Waste Collection 654w
Fair Communities Scheme 655-6w
Fire Services 700w
Fire Services, Finance 656w
Fire Services, Pensions 334w
Freedom of Information Requests 19w, 331w, 697w
Local Government, Databases 659w
Local Government, Internet 22-3w
Local Government, Maladministration 335-6w
Local Government Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 22w
Local Government, Pensions 23w, 336w, 659-60w, 701w
Local Government, Public Consultation 701-2w
Manufacturing Industries, Non-domestic Rates 23w
Mayors, Liverpool 660w
Non-domestic Rates 23w
Non-domestic Rates, Empty Property 220w
Organised Crime, Departmental Coordination 702-3w
Parish Councils, Non-domestic Rates 703w
Parishes, Expenditure 336w
Planning, Biodiversity 663w
Planning Permission 703w
Planning System 337w
Procurement 219w, 697-9w
Property Development 663-4w

Neill, Robert—continued
Public Sector Employee Bids 19-20w
Rates and Rating, Ealing 703w
Resilience and Emergencies 350w
Security Vetting 20-1w
Smoke Alarms, Procurement 704w
Sustainable Development 338w, 664w
Tenants, East of England 704w
Travellers Sites 25w
Urban Areas, Finance 26w
Voluntary Work 699w
Wind Power 338w
Written Questions 700w

Net Migration
51w

New Deal Schemes
Contracts 445w

New Schools
29ws

New Schools Network
45w, 289w

Newmark, Mr Brooks
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

News International
496w, 765w

Newton, Sarah
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 795-7
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 384, 407
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 137-43wh, 158wh, 160wh, 170wh, 181-2wh
Questions
Fisheries 729-30
Legal Aid (Social Welfare) 144

NHS
486w, 614w, 819w
Disclosure of Information 819w
Employment Tribunals Service 820w
Finance 615w
Information and Communications Technology 486w
Manpower 615w
Medical Landing Flights 135w
Pay 486w, 615w
Pensions 135w, 250w, 615w, 820w
Private Patients 356w
Private Sector 249w
Sexual Offences 821w
Solar Power 821w
Waiting Lists 616w

NHS Land
355w

NHS Property
356w

NHS Reorganisation
137w

Nicaragua
650w
Storms 650w

Nigeria
Human Rights 74w

Nokes, Caroline
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 757-9
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Nokes, Caroline—continued
Westminster Hall
Adoption 89wh
Questions
Biofuels 92w

Non-departmental Public Bodies
70w, 95w, 128w, 205w, 365w
Manpower 578w

Non-domestic Rates
23w
Empty Property 220w

Non-governmental Organisations
111w

Norman, Jesse
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Railways 188w

North Korea
Crimes against Humanity 693w
Human Rights 693w
Prisons 694w

Northern Ireland
15w, 194w, 402w, 666w

Nuclear Power Stations
Construction 792w
Hinkley Point 792w

Nuclear Suppliers Group
801w

Nurses
616w

Nuttall, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 193-4
G20 39
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 186-7wh
Questions
Family Courts 549w

O'Brien, Mr Stephen
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 132

O'Donnell, Fiona
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 783-5, 808-9
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Circuses 731-2w
Cocklers 732w
Disability Living Allowance 719-20w
Fisheries 720, 735-8, 224w
Fisheries, Statistics 225w
Unemployment 275-6

Obesity
487w
106wh
Health Services 137w, 616w

Ofcom
497w

Offenders
Ex-servicemen 33w, 421w
Rehabilitation 154, 33w

Offensive Weapons
Offences 551w

Office for Life Sciences
629w

Office of UK Permanent Representative to EU
Manpower 163w

Official Hospitality
710w

Offord, Mr Matthew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Middle East and North Africa 302
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Basic Skills 101w
Radiotherapy 488-9w

Ofgem
586w

Oil
Safety 266w

Old Drill Hall
368w

Older People
Carers 251w

Older Workers
604w, 779w

Ollerenshaw, Eric
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail) 215
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 31-3wh, 41wh
Questions
Topical Questions 19

Olympic Games 2012
Newspaper Press 193w
Roads 670w
Voluntary Work 323w

Onwurah, Chi
Chamber Debates
Blaydon Races 150th Anniversary 410
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 451
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Arts Council England 85w
Biology, Graduates 621-2w
Broadband 221w
Chief Scientific Adviser 319w, 565w, 623w
Employment, Electronic Government 208-9w
Export Credits Guarantees 377w
Further Education 108w
Higher Education, Teachers 466w
Innovation Strategy 107w
Medical Equipment 484-5w
Ministerial Policy Advisers 308w
Nanotechnology 111w
Office for Life Sciences 629w
Overseas Trade, Advisory Services 629w
Prescription Drugs 139w
Prescription Drugs, Prices 487w
Science 380w
Science, Higher Education 472w
Science, Skilled Workers 476w
Topical Questions 435

Opperman, Guy
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Organ Donation 98wh
Questions
Biofuels, Electricity 1w
Biofuels, Timber 1w
Housing, Construction 657w
India, British Nationals Abroad 73w
Reoffending 147-8
War Memorials, Vandalism 751w

Opportunities for Volunteering (Legacy Report)
24ws

Opposition Day
311

Organ
Donors 617w

Organ Donation
97wh

Organised Crime
Departmental Coordination 702w

Orphan Drugs
821w

Osborne, Rt Hon Mr George, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 661
Written Statements
ECOFIN 1-3ws
ECOFIN (8 November 2011) 31-3ws
Private Finance Initiative 34-5ws

Osborne, Sandra
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 130

Ottaway, Richard
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Middle East and North Africa 296
Youth Unemployment 407

Overseas Aid
152-3w, 278w

Overseas Terrorism
157

Overseas Trade
Advisory Services 629w

Owen, Albert
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 745, 751-3
Localism Bill 130
Questions
Knife Crime 5

Paice, Rt Hon Mr James, Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Youth Unemployment 407
Written Statements
Single Payment Scheme 12ws
Questions
Agricultural Wages Board 729w
Agriculture, Pay 220w
Animal Welfare, Circuses 221w
Animals, Disease Control 4w, 10w

Paice, Rt Hon Mr James—continued
Bovine Tuberculosis, Disease Control 4-6w, 221w, 731w
Carbon Emissions 397w
Cats, Electric Shock Equipment 731w
Circuses 732w
Dangerous Dogs 733w
Fertilizers 227w
Food, Hygiene 499w
Food, Prices 226-7w, 499w
Honey, EU Law 500w
Horses 737-8w
Local Government, Eggs 400w
Poultry, Animal Welfare 500w, 738-9w
Ragwort, Poisoning 500w
Schools, Eggs 417-8w

Paisley, Ian
Chamber Debates
Border Control Scheme 705
Education Bill 633, 661
Fuel Prices 745
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 221wh
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 209wh
Eurozone Crisis 184wh, 193wh, 195wh
Questions
Fisheries 715, 718-20
UNESCO, Finance 75w

Palestinians
Prisoners 74w
UNESCO 74w

Palliative Care
487w
Finance 617w

Pancreatic Cancer
137w

Paramedical Staff
822w

Parish Councils
Non-domestic Rates 703w

Parish, Neil
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Border Control Scheme 707
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 746
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 70-1
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Fisheries 729-30

Parishes
Expenditure 336w

Parliament Week
Costs 672w

Parliamentary Questions
161w

Parliamentary Reform
763w

Parliamentary Scrutiny
533w

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)
17ws

Passports
507w
Fraud 421w

Patel, Priti
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 783
Localism Bill 132

Patel, Priti—continued
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Prison Sentences, Human Rights 390w
Schools, ICT 47w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 269-70w
Translation Services 262w
Translation Services, Public Expenditure 395w

***Paterson, Mr,** Secretary of State for Northern Ireland*
Questions
Adam Werritty 15-6w
Bell Pottinger Group 402w
Charities 402w
Design Services 666w
Internships 16w
Legal Opinion 17w, 198w
Public Sector, Pay 196-7w
Secondary Legislation 197w

Patient Security (Mental Health System)
135

Patients
Transport 357w

Pawsey, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Border Control Scheme 704
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 778-9, 801-2
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 74
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 35-8wh
Questions
Foreign Students 1-3
Topical Questions 436

Pay
Pensions 210w

PAYE
183w, 641w
Universal Credit 63w

Pearce, Teresa
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Social Security Benefits 562w

***Penning, Mike,** Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cost of Motor Insurance 225, 232, 248-56
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
A14, Suffolk 769w
Caravans, Testing 770w
Chief Scientific Adviser 566w
Cycling, Accidents 770w
Dartford Crossing Charges 425-6
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing 770-1w
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing, Tolls 771w
Driving, Diabetes 405w
Foreign HGV Drivers 429
Harbour Authorities 57w
Heavy Goods Vehicles 431-2
Highways Agency, Manpower 771-2w
Highways Agency, Operating Costs 772w
Large Goods Vehicles 773-4w
Large Goods Vehicles, Accidents 774w
Motorways, Accidents 57w
Motorways, Speed Limits 774w

Penning, Mike—continued
Piracy 405-6w
Piracy, Brazil 774w
Ports 57w
Ports, Liverpool 188w
Rescue Services 58w, 190-1w
Road Accidents 406w
Roads 777w
Roads, Accidents 58w
Shipping, Oil 59w
Shipping, Registration 191-2w
Shipping, Safety 59w
Speed Limits 777-8w
Topical Questions 434, 4mc
Transport, Infrastructure 778w

Penrose, John
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 132
Questions
Adam Werritty 84w, 318-9w
Archaeological Sites 492w
Bell Pottinger Group 493w
Charities 319w
Chief Scientific Adviser 319w
Design, Costs 494w
Freedom of Information Requests 85-6w, 320w
Grant Funding 495w
Internships 86w
Judicial Review 669-70w
National Lottery, Tickets 88w
National Planning Policy Framework 88w
Public Appointments 320-1w
Royal Parks 497w
Written Questions 321-2w

Pension Credit
556w, 726w

Pension Protection System (Administration Levies)
10ws

Pensioners
Fuel Poverty 266w

Pensions
446w, 557w, 726w
Females 727w
Misrepresentation 552w, 642w
Teachers 63w

Percy, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 639-41, 643, 661
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 192-3
Fuel Prices 748, 774-5, 801
Localism Bill 108-9, 132
Middle East and North Africa 301
Youth Unemployment 367, 373, 407
Questions
Dental Services, Schools 126w

Perkins, Toby
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 360-59, 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Fuel Prices 752-3, 760, 800-1
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Crown Prosecution Service 696
Insolvency 110w, 304w
Insolvency Service, Finance 306w

Perry, Claire
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Border Control Scheme 703
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 763
Localism Bill 132

Perry, Claire—continued
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Adoption 78wh, 87wh
Questions
Driving, Disabled 206w

Personal Income
327w

Personal Independence Payment
34ws

Personal Independence Payments
211w

Personal Injury Law
254w

Personal Savings
99w

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Finance 139w

Petition
134, 548, 812

Petitions
(09.11.2011) 409, 663

Phillips, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 335, 343-6, 356, 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Middle East and North Africa 301
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Extradition 692

Phillipson, Bridget
Questions
Adam Werritty 16w, 36w, 84w, 157w, 227w, 431w, 729w
Armed Forces 230w
Armed Forces, Mental Health 78w
Armed Forces, Recruitment 78w
Armed Forces, Redundancy 231w
Cyber Attack 232w
Cyber Taskforce 522w
Freedom of Information Requests 80w

***Pickles, Rt Hon Mr Eric,** Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Written Statements
Council Tax 27-8ws
Infrastructure 9-10ws

Piers
Redcar and Cleveland 579w

Pincher, Christopher
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 535
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 465
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 760, 795
Localism Bill 132
Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail) 216-7
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Prescription Drugs, Costs 357w
Solar Power 796w

Pingat Jasa Malaysia
11ws

Piracy
563, 405w
Brazil 774w

Planning
Biodiversity 663w
Skipton 24w

Planning Guidance (Northumberland)
248-56wh

Planning Permission
661w, 703w
Milton Keynes 23w

Planning System
336w

Plastics
379w

Point of Order
467

Points of Order
165, 307, 579

Police
422w
Buildings 762w
Finance 422w
Manpower 763w
Olympic Games 2012 55w

Police Authority Funding
17

Police Community Support Officers
Wales 762w

Police Forces (Collaboration)
6

Police Funding Settlement
15

Police Numbers
16

Political Party Funding
683

Pollution Control
469w

Population
Infrastructure 184w

Ports
57w
Liverpool 188w

Post-legislative Scrutiny of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007
19ws

Poulter, Dr Daniel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Patient Security (Mental Health System) 137-8
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Adoption 83wh
Obesity 116-9wh, 127-8wh
Organ Donation 99wh, 103wh
Questions
Carers' Benefits, Suffolk 125w
Head Teachers, Recruitment 543w

Poultry
Animal Welfare 500w, 738w

Pound, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 334, 338, 342, 353-4, 362
Education Bill 633
Localism Bill 130

Pound, Stephen—continued
UK Border Force 57
Youth Unemployment 405

Prescription Drugs
139w, 618w
Costs 357w
Prices 487w

Press
Subscriptions 43w, 105w, 511w

Press Releases
604w

Primary Care (Devon and the South-West)
48wh

Primary Care Trusts
488w
Per Capita Costs 251w

Prime Minister
276, 25ws, 123w, 270w, 401w, 500w, 673w

Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme
273w

Prisk, Mr Mark, Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 673-6
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Arms Trade, Bahrain 799-800w
Business, Entry Clearances 102w, 460w
Business, Regulation 460w
Construction 103w
Departmental Procurement 624w, 800-1w
Employment, Waste Management 462-3w
Environment Protection 463-5w, 626w
Exports, Licensing 801w
Franchises 107-8w
Green Construction Board 466w
Green Deal Scheme 801w
Green Investment Bank 801w
Growing Places Fund 466w
Hair Dyes, Chemicals 304w
Iron and Steel, Competition 378w
Job Creation 378w
Manufactured Goods, Origin Marking 307-8w
Metal Theft 379w
Ministerial Policy Advisers 308w
Nuclear Suppliers Group 802w
Overseas Trade, Advisory Services 629-30w
Plastics 379w
Pollution Control 469-70w
Regional Growth Fund 112w, 308w, 379w, 470-1w, 802w
Regional Growth Fund, Job Creation 112w
Regulation 802w
Solar Power 348w, 802w
Trade Promotion 477-8w
Trade Promotion, Nigeria 381-2w
Trade Promotion, Saudi Arabia 802w
Training 802-3w
UK Trade & Investment, Local Economic Partnerships 382w
Venture Capital 803-4w

Prison Population
149

Prison Sentences
425w
Human Rights 390w

Prison Work
254w

Prisoners
Ex-servicemen 552w
Foreign Nationals 262w
Location 390w
Per Capita Costs 391w, 426w

Prisons
Conditions of Employment 392w
Construction 782w
Discipline 393w
Private Sector 34w, 262w

Pritchard, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Youth Unemployment 407

Private Finance Initiative
233w
34ws

Private Members' Bills
498w

Private Sector
Pay 99w

Probation Officers
151

Procurement
56w, 105w, 218w, 233w, 298w, 457w, 461w

Project Avanti
19ws

Property Development
663w

Prostate Cancer
Health Services 139w, 357w

Prosthetics
Ex-servicemen 618w

Public Appointments
271w, 320w

Public Disorder (Tottenham)
14

Public Employee Bids
572w

Public Expenditure
340w, 513w

Public Health England
252w

Public Sector
Bonuses 567w
Carbon Emissions 767w
Dangerous Dogs 768w
Misconduct 393w
Part-time Employment 706w
Pay 95w, 104w, 129w, 165w, 196w, 285w, 366w, 385w, 437w, 511w, 514w, 571w, 706w
Procurement 117w

Public Sector Employee Bids
15w, 19w, 147w, 178w, 264w

Public Sector Land
335w

Public Sector Pensions
340w, 428w, 459w, 642w

Public Sector Transparency Board
459w

Public Transport
Olympic Games 2012 774w

Pugh, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 159wh, 165-9wh, 175wh

Pupils
Bullying 46w
Disadvantaged 683w

Queen's Messages
68w

Qureshi, Yasmin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 318, 340, 362
Youth Unemployment 405

Raab, Mr Dominic
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 350-1, 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Extradition 260w
Public Sector Pensions 340w, 428w
Road Maintenance 431
Sustainable Development 338w

Race Relations
24w

Radio Frequencies
88w, 323w

Radio Licensing
89w

Radioactive Waste
Sweden 792w

Radiotherapy
488w, 618w

RAF Leuchars
234w

RAF Lossiemouth
European Fighter Aircraft 368w

RAF Menwith Hill
235w

Ragwort
Poisoning 500w

Rail Reform
42ws

Railway Stations
421, 426

Railways
188w
Electricity 57w
Electrification 513w
Fares 189w
Finance 189w
Franchises 579w, 775w
Freight 189w
Kent 579w
Repairs and Maintenance 190w
Standards 313w

Randall, Rt Hon Mr John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Rare Diseases
140w

Rates and Rating
Ealing 703w

Raynsford, Mr Nick
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659
Localism Bill 83, 120, 130
UK Border Force 53
Youth Unemployment 405

Reckless, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 103-6, 112
UK Border Force 59
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Eurozone Crisis 184wh, 194-5wh, 199wh
Questions
Police Funding Settlement 15

Recycling
Glass 739w

Red Cross
619w

Redwood, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 171, 177
G20 31
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Armoured Fighting Vehicles 364w
Fisheries 737, 740
Services Officers 83w

Reed, Mr Jamie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Rees-Mogg, Jacob
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 202, 209-10
Education Bill 635, 661
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 191-2
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 448
Keynsham Railway Station Access 410-1
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 70
Youth Unemployment 407

Reevell, Simon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407

Reeves, Rachel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 659-60
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 392-3, 399-402, 405
Questions
Civil Servants, Pensions 533w
Local Government, Pensions 336w, 659w
NHS, Pensions 250w, 615w, 820w
Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme 273w
Public Sector, Part-time Employment 706w
Public Sector, Pay 706w

Reeves, Rachel—continued
Public Sector Pensions 429w, 643w
Social Security Benefits 557w
State Retirement Pensions, Public Expenditure 212w
Teachers, Pensions 685w
Well-being 541w

Regeneration
Liverpool 664w

Regional Growth Fund
111w, 308w, 379w, 470w, 802w
Job Creation 112w

Regulation
802w

Regulatory Reform
133

Reid, Mr Alan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 753-5, 805
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Unemployment 276

Remand in Custody
783w

Renewable Energy
793w
Employment 793w
Feed-in Tariffs 2w, 587w, 794w
Heating 267w, 590w

Renewable Energy Directive
7ws

Reoffenders
34w, 394w

Reoffending
147, 150, 153

Rescue Services
58w, 190w
Helicopters 235w

Research
130w, 431w, 465w, 572w, 735w
Expenditure 379w, 630w

Reserve Forces
Deployment 16ws
London 2012 Olympics 369w

Reservists
517w

Reservoirs
Safety 398w

Resilience and Emergencies
350w
Cabinet Committees 456w
Training 456w

Restorative Justice
156, 35w

Revenue and Customs
340w, 429w

Review of the Charities Act
16ws

Reynolds, Emma
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405

Reynolds, Jonathan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660

Reynolds, Jonathan—continued
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Questions
Academies, Standards 673w
EADS 517w
Railway Stations 421-2
Regional Growth Fund 308w

Rifkind, Rt Hon Sir Malcolm
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635
Youth Unemployment 407

Riordan, Mrs Linda
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Obesity 129wh

Riot Control Weapons
179w

Ritchie, Ms Margaret
Chamber Debates
Cost of Motor Insurance 241-4
Questions
Fisheries 728-9
Fisheries, Quotas 225w
Foreign Relations, Republic of Ireland 16w
Supermarkets, Competition 308w

Road Accidents
406w

Road Maintenance
431

Road Signs and Markings
191w

Road Traffic
Marble Arch 776w

Roads
776w
Accidents 58w
Snow and Ice 580w

Robathan, Rt Hon Mr Andrew, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 505, 518, 521, 528, 541-8
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Written Statements
Pingat Jasa Malaysia 11ws
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping Operations 740-1w
Armed Forces 230w
Armed Forces, Bullying 741-2w
Armed Forces, Cadets 76-7w
Armed Forces, Coroners 362-3w
Armed Forces, Education 742w
Armed Forces, Housing 78w
Armed Forces, Mental Health 78w
Armed Forces, Pay 363w
Armed Forces, Recruitment 78w
Armed Forces, Redundancy 231w, 364w
Armed Forces, Suicide 231-2w
Armed Forces, Training 79w, 520w
Armed Forces, Young People 79-80w
Battle of Waterloo, Bicentenary 364w
Chief Coroner 557-9
Defence, Finance 232w
Defence Munitions, Beith 518w
Defence, Scotland 744-6w
Departmental Pay 746-8w
Drummore Harbour, Land 82w

Robathan, Rt Hon Mr Andrew—continued
European Fighter Aircraft 82w
Ex-servicemen, Domestic Violence 526-7w
Ex-servicemen, Finance 748-9w
Freedom of Information Requests 80-1w
Honours and Decoration Committee 368w
Internships 82w
Legal Opinion 83w
Malaysia, Military Decorations 749w
Marketing 365-6w, 522w
Military Bases, Chelsfield 529w
Military Bases, Radiation Exposure 750w
MOD Police and Guarding Agency 750w
NDPBs 365w
Old Drill Hall 368w
Public Sector, Pay 366w
Reservists 517w
Secondary Legislation 81-2w
Security Vetting 82w, 524w, 748w
Service Families (Education) 569
Service Personnel, Housing 516w
Services Officers 83-4w
Topical Questions 573-8
War Memorials 566-7
War Memorials, Vandalism 751w
World War I, Anniversaries 84w
Written Questions 366-7w, 525w

Robertson, Angus
Chamber Debates
Points of Order 579-80
Questions
Afghanistan, Unmanned Air Vehicles 362w
Aircraft Carriers 229w
Ammunition, Storage 230w, 362w
Construction Sector 268
Defence, Scotland 744-5w
Topical Questions 576
Trident 236w

Robertson, Hugh
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
American Football 84w
Olympic Games 2012, Newspaper Press 193w
Olympic Games 2012, Roads 670-1w
Olympic Games 2012, Voluntary Work 323w
School Sport 90w
Sports, Clubs 671w
Ticket Touting 90w
UK Sport, Sport England 90-2w

Robertson, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405
Westminster Hall
Social Care Funding 13wh9
Questions
British Nationals Abroad, Arrests 687w
Contracts, JCB 458w
Education Maintenance Allowance 678w
Energy Prices 272
Government Contracts, Deloitte 537-8w
Overseas Terrorism 157-8

Robertson, Mr Laurence
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 661

Robertson, Mr Laurence—continued
Localism Bill 132
Questions
Armed Forces, Coroners 362w
Community Orders, Voluntary Organisations 423w
East Africa, Droughts 149w

Robinson, Mr Geoffrey
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 405-6

Rogerson, Dan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 603, 620-2, 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Electoral Register 682
Skin Cancer 140w
Skin Cancer, Cornwall 140w
Skin Cancer, Drugs 141w

Rolling Stock
Manufacturing Industries 777w

Rosindell, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Animal Experiments, Imports 501w
Central America 647w
Central America, Storms 647w, 752w
Cycling, Accidents 770w
Democratic Republic of Congo 687-8w
Democratic Republic of Congo, Overseas Aid 633w
Democratic Republic of Congo, Politics and Government 689w
Demonstrations, Costs 419w
Dental Services 602w
Departmental Manpower 222w
Departmental Website 604w
Developing Countries, Economic Situation 277w
Drugs 607-8w
Empty Property 21w
Equal Opportunities 603w
EU Law 504w
Firearms, Licensing 420w, 504w
Flags 603w
Free Schools 681w
HIV Infection, EU Action 610w
Hospitals, Hygiene 611w
Influenza, Vaccination 612w
Invalid Vehicles, Accidents 578w
Japanese Knotweed 329w
Knives, Crime 506w
Mathematics, Science 288w
Nicaragua 650w
Nicaragua, Storms 650w
Older Workers 604w, 779w
Prescription Drugs 618w
Press Releases 604w
Prisons, Construction 782w
Prosthetics, Ex-servicemen 618w
Ragwort, Poisoning 500w
Red Cross 619w
Sickle Cell Diseases 619w
Smoking 620w
Somaliland, Overseas Aid 432w
South Sudan 694w
South Sudan, Overseas Aid 637w
Turks and Caicos Islands, Prosecutions 651-2w
UK Border Agency, Telephone Services 508w
Written Questions 481w

Rotheram, Steve
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 636-7, 650, 657-8, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Antisocial Behaviour, Internet 501w
Procurement 457w

Roy, Lindsay
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Fuel Prices 766
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Coalition Agreement 681
Engagements 280

Roy, Mr Frank
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406

Royal Assent
742

Royal Parks
497w

Ruane, Chris
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 447
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Departmental Training 711w
Electoral Register 532w
Electricity 264w
Ministerial Meetings 711w
Ministerial Photographs 711w
Social Security Benefits, Publicity 448w
Third Sector 713w
Topical Questions 689
Voter Registration 282-3w, 1-2mc
Work Capability Assessment 450w, 563w

Rudd, Amber
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Growing Places Fund 182w
Human Trafficking 53-4w
Kenya, Human Rights 372w

Ruddock, Joan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Middle East and North Africa 302
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Train Punctuality 430

Ruffley, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
G20 35
Localism Bill 132
UK Border Force 55
Youth Unemployment 407

Rural Bus Services
427

Russell, Bob
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 471, 473, 482, 485, 522-5
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 72
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Cystic Fibrosis 809w
Employment, Disability 325w
Honey, EU Law 499-500w
Learning Disability 247w
NHS, Medical Landing Flights 135w
Planning Permission 662w
Railways, Franchises 579w, 775w
Succession to the Throne 765w
Topical Questions 20

Rutley, David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cost of Motor Insurance 228
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Topical Questions 575

St Helena
Airports 279w
Overseas Aid 282w

St Helen's and Whiston NHS Hospital Trust
253w

Sanders, Mr Adrian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Arthritis, Physiotherapy 598w
Diabetes 604-6w, 811w
Diabetes, Admissions 606-7w
Driving, Diabetes 404-5w
EU Grants and Loans 705w
Speech and Language 359-60w

Sandys, Laura
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 29-30wh, 36wh, 42wh
Questions
Departmental Food 811w
Fisheries 740
Food Procurement 779w

Sark
552w

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme
416w, 822w

School Sport
90w

School Sports
416w

Schools
Admissions 684w
Assessments 46w
Dogs 46w
Eggs 417w
ICT 47w
Polling Stations 530w
Pupils 684w
Repairs and Maintenance 684w

Schools—*continued*
Vocational Guidance 289w, 382w, 685w

Schools (Bradford)
55wh

Science
380w
Females 471w
Higher Education 472w
Skilled Workers 476w

Scotland
267, 36w, 194w, 313w, 491w, 665w

Scott, Mr Lee
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 743-4
Localism Bill 132
Westminster Hall
King George Hospital 2wh, 6wh, 9-11wh

Scottish and Southern Energy
590w

Scottish Independence
269

Seabeck, Alison
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 547
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 123, 130
M5 Motorway Accident 70
UK Border Force 60
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Aircraft Carriers 741w
Defence Manufacturing 570-1
Employment Schemes 207w
Invalid Vehicles, Eyesight 773w
Multiple Occupation 660-1w
National Planning Policy Framework 88w
Navy 413w
Procurement 233w
Submarines, Decommissioning 235w
Universal Credit 728w

Secondary Legislation
14w, 60w, 81w, 127w, 160w, 197w, 573w, 624w, 780w

Secondment
301w

Security Vetting
20w, 43w, 61w, 82w, 117w, 148w, 166w, 222w, 276w, 285w, 512w, 514w, 524w, 573w, 711w, 748w

Seized Articles
Landfill 55w

Selous, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 787, 792-3
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Departmental Health Insurance 175w
Electric Vehicles, Bedfordshire 187w
Employment and Support Allowance 62w
Engagements 281
Libya 568
Property Development 663w

Sentencing
394w

Serbia
EU Enlargement 75w

Service Families (Education)
569

Service Personnel
Housing 516w

Services Officers
83w

Sexual Offences
317w, 358w
Crime Prevention 552w
Rehabilitation 394w

Shannon, Jim
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 525-8
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Business of the House 463
Cluster Munitions 414
Cost of Motor Insurance 230-2
Education Bill 633, 654, 661
Fuel Prices 762, 791, 794, 803
Independent Police Complaints Commission 816
Youth Unemployment 370, 406
Westminster Hall
Adoption 79wh, 86-8wh
Eurozone Crisis 189-91wh
Grammar Schools 24wh, 35wh
Obesity 107-8wh, 116wh
Questions
Afghanistan, Peacekeeping Operations 740w
Bahrain, Politics and Government 645w
Divorce 534w
Fisheries 733-4, 742
Kenya, Kidnapping 649w
Motorways, Speed Limits 774w
NHS, Sexual Offences 821w
NHS, Waiting Lists 616w
Organ, Donors 617w
Pensions 557w
Reoffending 148
Social Security Benefits, Tribunals 783w

Shapps, Rt Hon Grant
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 407
Questions
Affordable Housing, Disability 218w
Empty Property 21w
Energy Performance Certificates, Holiday Accommodation 655w
Ex-servicemen, Finance 333-4w
Growing Places Fund 399w
Homelessness, Ex-servicemen 656-7w
Housing 700-699w
Housing, Visual Impairment 219-20w
MoveUK 702w
Multiple Occupation 661w
Public Sector Land 335w
Sleeping Rough 337w
Social Rented Housing 337-8w

Sharma, Alok
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 312, 364
Education Bill 635
Localism Bill 132
UK Border Force 53
Youth Unemployment 407-8
Questions
Topical Questions 162

Sharma, Mr Virendra
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406

Sharma, Mr Virendra—continued
Questions
Disability Allowance 206w
Incontinence, Health Services 483w

Sheerman, Mr Barry
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Business of the House 457
Education Bill 584-5, 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
M5 Motorway Accident 69
Youth Unemployment 368, 376, 379, 406
Questions
Developing Countries, Waste Disposal 148w
Electoral Registration 680
Interest Rates 640w
Railway Stations 427
Reoffending 151
Unpaid Taxes 645w

Shelbrooke, Alec
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 86, 90, 94, 98-102, 105, 109, 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Engagements 285
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 3w

Shepherd, Christopher
27w

Shepherd, Mr Richard
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Youth Unemployment 408

Sheridan, Jim
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 234wh
Grammar Schools 47wh
Questions
Construction Sector 267

Shipping
Oil 58w
Registration 191w
Safety 59w

Shuker, Gavin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Payment by Results 154

Sickle Cell Diseases
619w

Sign Language
89w, 324w

Simmonds, Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 378, 397-9, 408

Simpson, David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 323, 362
Youth Unemployment 406

Simpson, David—continued
Westminster Hall
Adoption 81-3wh, 87wh
Obesity 108-9wh
Questions
Departmental Public Expenditure 175w

Simpson, Mr Keith
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
World War I, Anniversaries 84w

Single Payment Scheme
12ws

Sites of Special Scientific Interest
739w

Skidmore, Chris
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Dementia, Research 810w
Health Services, Overseas Visitors 608-9w, 814w
Maternity Services, Finance 816w

Skin Cancer
140w, 252w, 274w, 539w, 620w
Cornwall 140w
Drugs 141w, 358w
Young People 358w

Skinner, Mr Dennis
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
G20 32
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Topical Questions 690

Slaughter, Mr Andy
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Applied Language Solutions 544-5w
Dogs Act 1871 29w
Free Schools 681w
Free Schools, West London 682w
Legal Aid (Social Welfare) 144-5

Sleeping Rough
337w

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
313w

Smart Meters
265w

Smith, Angela
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 324, 327-8, 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Animal Experiments 330w
Hate Crime 439
Rural Bus Services 427-8

Smith, Henry
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Border Control Scheme 704
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
UK Border Force 52

Smith, Henry—continued
Youth Unemployment 367, 408
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 236wh, 239wh
Questions
Aviation, Alcoholic Drinks 186w
Aviation, EU Action 186w
Aviation, USA 187w

Smith, Julian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 665, 670
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission 199w, 324w
Planning, Skipton 24w
Procurement 105w, 461w
Public Sector, Procurement 117w
Schools, Admissions 684w

Smith, Miss Chloe, Economic Secretary to the Treasury
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 806-10
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Biofuels 92w
Charities 339w
Departmental Billing 94w
Departmental Buildings 94w
Design Services 705w
Diesel Fuel, Agriculture 97w
Duchy of Cornwall 639w
Excise Duties, Fuels 97w
Excise Duties, National Lottery 97-8w
Freedom of Information Requests 94-5w, 182w
Green Economy Council 705w
Green Investment Bank 98w
Industry, Production 640w
Internships 96-7w
Learning Disability 98-9w
Members, Correspondence 706w
Metal Theft 340w
NDBPs 95w
Parliamentary Questions 428w
Public Sector, Pay 95-6w
Stamp Duty Land Tax, Public Houses 643w
Tax Allowances, Environment Protection 707w
Taxation, Amusement Arcades 185w
Taxation, Environment Protection 644w
Written Questions 428w

Smith, Nick
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 483
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Fuel Prices 760, 768, 787
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 448
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Obesity 108wh, 128wh
Questions
Alcohol-related Antisocial Behaviour 11
Alcoholic Drinks, Misuse 236-7w
Alcoholic Drinks, Prices 237w
Electoral Registration 677-8
Prison Population 149
Topical Questions 573

Smith, Owen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Border Control Scheme 706

Smith, Owen—continued
Education Bill 633, 660
Fuel Prices 804-9
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Business, Loans 92w
Food, Prices 499w
Income Tax, Tax Rates and Bands 705w
Procurement 298w
Taxation, Environment Protection 644w
VAT, Imports 708w
VAT, Tax Rates and Bands 708w

Smith, Rt Hon Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Adoption 75-6wh, 87-8wh, 95wh
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 208wh, 216wh
Questions
Armed Forces, Bullying 741w
Breast Cancer, Screening 238w
Common Land 222w
Fertilizers 227w
Old Drill Hall 368w
Water Pollution 227w

Smith, Sir Robert
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635
Fuel Prices 754, 796
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Energy Prices 273
Fisheries 713

Smoke Alarms
Procurement 703w

Smoking
620w
Motor Vehicles 823w

Soames, Nicholas
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 661
Localism Bill 132
Middle East and North Africa 298
Questions
Afghanistan 565
Armed Forces, Cadets 76w
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, Neurology 600w
Departmental Manpower 756w
Departmental Public Expenditure 301w
Energy, Infrastructure 788w
Illegal Immigration (Olympics) 12
Nurses 616w
Regulation 802w
Water Abstraction 398w

Social Care Funding
137wh

Social Enterprises
24w, 48w, 59w

Social Finance
273w

Social Rented Housing
337w, 664w
Planning Permission 400w

Social Security Benefits
64w, 211w, 446w, 515w, 557w, 727w
Disability 63w
Publicity 448w
Tribunals 783w

Social Services
Fees and Charges 252w

Solar Power
267w, 348w, 590w, 796w, 802w
Feed-in Tariffs 3w, 267w, 409w, 591w, 796w
Finance 595w
Manpower 596w

Somalia
Armed Conflict 650w
Cholera 154w
Overseas Aid 154w
Piracy 529w

Somaliland
Overseas Aid 432w

South Sudan
694w
Overseas Aid 637w

Southern Cross Healthcare
141w

Sovereignty
666w

Speaker, Madam Deputy
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 478, 480, 483
Border Checks Summer 2011 333, 335, 337, 346, 357-8
Business without Debate 258
Cost of Motor Insurance 255
Education Bill 627, 636, 641, 646-7
Fuel Prices 759, 775, 785
Localism Bill 82
Point of Order 467
Youth Unemployment 367

Speaker, Mr
Chamber Debates
Border Control Scheme 703, 705, 707
Business without Debate 408
Committees 134
Education Bill 582, 586, 590, 594
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 172, 178
G20 29, 35, 43
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 446, 450-1
Localism Bill 128
Middle East and North Africa 288, 296, 300, 306
Points of Order 165-6, 307, 579-80
Speaker's Statement 287
UK Border Force 46, 49, 53
Questions
Alcohol-related Antisocial Behaviour 11
Death of a Member 557
Electoral Commission Report 274
Energy Prices 273
Engagements 278
Family Migration Route 9
Fisheries 275, 715
Foreign HGV Drivers 429
Illegal Immigration (Olympics) 12
MOT Tests 423
Overseas Terrorism 158
Political Party Funding 683
Railway Stations 423
Topical Questions 19-20, 22, 160, 164, 435, 687-8, 690

Speaker, Mr Deputy
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 512, 532, 538, 548
Border Checks Summer 2011 311-2, 316, 319-20, 322, 324, 326, 331
Cost of Motor Insurance 218
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 189, 191
Fuel Prices 743, 747-50, 809, 812
Localism Bill 77, 114, 116, 120-1

Speaker, Mr Deputy—continued
Royal Assent 742
Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail) 213
Youth Unemployment 385, 387, 392
Questions
Fisheries 723, 725-6, 731-2, 735, 742

Speaker's Statement
287

Special Advisers
415w

Speech and Language
359w

Speech and Language Disorders
Health Services 253w

Speed Limits
777w

Spellar, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
UK Border Force 58
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Ambulances 125w
Battle of Waterloo, Bicentenary 364w
Disability Living Allowance, Appeals 425w
Fire Services, Finance 656w
Hospitals, Eggs 246w
Local Government, Eggs 400w
Metal Theft 339w, 405w
Ministerial Meetings 241w
Oil, Safety 266w
Piracy, Brazil 774w
Procurement 56w
Rolling Stock, Manufacturing Industries 777w
Schools, Eggs 417w
Terrorism, British Nationals Abroad 35w
Theft, Large Goods Vehicles 508w
Ticket Touting 90w
Training 802w

Spelman, Rt Hon Mrs Caroline, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Chamber Debates
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Written Statements
Agriculture and Fisheries Council 3-5ws, 29-30ws
Natural Capital Committee 37ws
Witten Ministerial Statement (Correction) 20ws

Spencer, Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 661
Fuel Prices 750
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Payment by Results 153-4

Sport
Schools 620w

Sports
Clubs 671w

Sri Lanka
163w, 373w, 529w

Stalking
Harassment 784w

Stamp Duty Land Tax
Public Houses 643w

Standards and Privileges
133

Stanley, Rt Hon Sir John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cluster Munitions 413
Education Bill 635, 661
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Arms Trade, North Africa 427w

State Retirement Pensions
Carers 211w
Overseas Residence 728w
Public Expenditure 212w

Statutory Security of Supply Report
11ws

Stephenson, Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 461
Education Bill 635, 661-2
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Energy, Billing 583w
Energy Performance Certificates, Holiday Accommodation 655w
Family Migration Route 8
Stamp Duty Land Tax, Public Houses 643w
Train Punctuality 429-30

Stevenson, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Businesses, Economic Environment 313w

Stewart, Bob
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 491, 493, 497, 504-6
Education Bill 635, 639, 656, 662
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 75
Yemen 265-6
Questions
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Politics and Government 646w
Children, Day Care 714w
Olympic Games 2012, Roads 670w
Piracy 564
Public Transport, Olympic Games 2012 774w
Teachers, Pensions 291w

Stewart, Iain
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cost of Motor Insurance 232-4
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 73
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 218wh
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 208-13wh
Questions
Alcohol-related Antisocial Behaviour 10-1
Electoral Commission Report 274
Higher Education, Finance 628w

Stewart, Rory
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 662
Fuel Prices 761-2
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408

Strategic Defence and Security Review
163w, 515w

Straw, Mr Jack
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 321, 329-33, 362
Localism Bill 130
Middle East and North Africa 297
UK Border Force 50

Streeter, Mr Gary
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
M5 Motorway Accident 67
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Bovine Tuberculosis, Disease Control 730w
Charities, Hospices 765-6w
Engagements 279-80
Schools, Polling Stations 530w

Strengthening Women's Voices in Government
6ws

Stride, Mel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Fuel Prices 782
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Piracy 563

Stringer, Graham
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 200, 204
Education Bill 633, 660
G20 37
Localism Bill 85, 89, 130
UK Border Force 61
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 219wh, 226-8wh
Eurozone Crisis 205wh

Strokes
824w

Stuart, Mr Graham
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 584, 588, 591-2, 594-5, 602-8, 612-3, 615, 618-9, 627, 629, 635, 640, 644, 647, 651-3, 662
Fuel Prices 778
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 369, 382, 398, 408
Questions
Music, Education 289w

Stuart, Ms Gisela
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
G20 32
Localism Bill 130
Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail) 214, 216
Youth Unemployment 406

Student Loans Company
113w

Students
Fees and Charges 113w
Finance 631w
Loans 113w, 632w
Sponsorship 632w
Transport 685w

Stunell, Andrew,* *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 82-8, 97, 101, 111-2, 116-20, 132
Questions
Anti-Semitism 51w, 168-9w
Building Regulations 654w
Building Regulations, Water Supply 654w
Charities 18w
Housing 400w
Housing, Construction 22w, 657-8w, 701w
Integration Strategy 217w
Procurement 218-9w
Race Relations 24w
Social Enterprises 25w
Social Rented Housing 664w
Social Rented Housing, Planning Permission 400w
Voluntary Organisations, Finance 704w

Sturdy, Julian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 348, 364
Cost of Motor Insurance 219, 223
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
British Nationals Abroad, Elections 373w
Horses 737w
Lobbying 283w
Taxation, Football 644w

Submarines
Decommissioning 235w

Succession to the Throne
679, 765w

Sudan
411w
Foreign Investment 651w

Suicide
118w

Supermarkets
Competition 308w

Surgery
Manpower 490w
Warrington 490w

Surviving Winter Appeal
282

Sustainable Development
338w, 664w

Sutcliffe, Mr Gerry
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 340-1, 352-3, 362
Border Control Scheme 703
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Schools (Bradford) 56wh

Sutcliffe, Mr Gerry—continued
Questions
Bribery and Corruption 692-3

Swales, Ian
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Apprentices, Tees Valley 797w
Building Regulations 654w
Fisheries 717-8
Gangs 3-4
Topical Questions 158-9

Swansea Coastguard Station
663

Swayne, Rt Hon Mr Desmond
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408

Swinson, Jo
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Fuel Prices 783
Localism Bill 132
Middle East and North Africa 305
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 587-8w
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises 313w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 409w, 796w
Topical Questions 578

Swire, Mr Hugo,* *Minister of State for Northern Ireland
Questions
Departmental Manpower 16w
Foreign Relations, Republic of Ireland 16w
Freedom of Information Requests 194-6w
Legal Opinion 17w
Public Sector, Pay 197w

Syms, Mr Robert
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 512-4
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 460
Education Bill 635, 662
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 446
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 30-1wh, 39wh

Tami, Mark
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 503
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406

Tapsell, Sir Peter
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
G20 28
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Bribery and Corruption 693

Tax Allowances
Environment Protection 707w

Tax Avoidance
341w

Taxation
99w
Amusement Arcades 185w
Environment Protection 643w
Football 644w
Multinational Companies 430w

Teachers
48w, 134
Pensions 48w, 290w, 685w, 707w
Training 291w

Teather, Sarah,* *Minister of State, Department for Education
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Adoption 93-6wh
Questions
Children's Centres 678w
Children's Centres, Closures 415w
Life Skills 682w
Local Government Services 683w
School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme 416w
Social Enterprises 48w

Telephone Helplines
7w, 70w, 344w, 574w

Telephone Services
515w

Television
Licensing 193w

Tenants
East of England 704w

Terrorism
British Nationals Abroad 35w
Compensation 784w

The Union
271

Theatres
Voluntary Work 671w

Theft
Large Goods Vehicles 508w
Retail Trade 508w

Third Sector
713w, 778w

Thomas, Mr Gareth
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Archaeological Sites 491w
Art Works, England 492w
Big Society Capital 271w
Cabinet Committees, Third Sector 270w
Charities 271w
Civil Servants, Redundancy 533w
Consultants 11w, 43w, 172w, 369w, 531w, 566w, 696w, 734w
Data Protection 285w
Departmental Assets 69w, 201w, 256w, 374w, 648w
Departmental Consultants 310w
Departmental Lost Property 6w, 43w
Departmental Procurement 623-4w
Departmental Responsibilities 27w, 766w
ElcomSoft 272w
English Heritage 495w
Freedom of Information 457w

Thomas, Mr Gareth—continued
Government Departments, Internet 767w
Higher Education Funding Council 109w
Lost Property 104w, 160w, 175w, 241w, 260w, 571w
Major Projects Authority 458w
Ministerial Meetings 232w
Non-governmental Organisations 111w
Procurement 218w, 697-8w, 735w
Public Employee Bids 572w
Public Sector Employee Bids 15w, 19w, 147w, 178w, 264w
Public Sector Transparency Board 459w
Road Traffic, Marble Arch 776w
Royal Parks 497w
Social Enterprises 24w, 48w, 59w
Social Finance 273w
Sri Lanka 163w
Third Sector 778w
Work Programme 216w, 450-1w

Thornberry, Emily
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Bribery and Corruption 693
Electoral Registration 680

Thurso, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Christopher Shepherd 27w
Construction Sector 268
Data Security 672-3w
Monuments, Chartism 373w
Parliament Week, Costs 672w
Welsh Grand Committee, Wrexham 181w

Ticket Touting
90w

Tidal Power
798w

Timms, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Westminster Hall
Bank Account Fraud 241-6wh
Questions
Departmental Publications 205w
Employment and Support Allowance 556w
Employment Schemes 440w
Employment Schemes, Contracts 325w
Employment Schemes, Voluntary Organisations 721-2w
Incapacity Benefits 209w
Knife Crime 5-6
PAYE 183w, 641w
PAYE, Universal Credit 63w
Pension Credit 556w
Social Security Benefits 64w
Universal Credit 65w, 562w, 729w
Universal Credit, Free School Meals 65w
Work Capability Assessment 67w
Work Programme 67w, 215w, 564w
Working Tax Credit 645w

Timpson, Mr Edward
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Business of the House 463
Education Bill 635, 662
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Adoption 74wh, 77wh, 86wh, 88-90wh

Tomlinson, Justin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Obesity 111-6wh, 122wh, 124wh
Questions
Council Tax, Swindon 18w, 93w
Crimes of Violence, Sentencing 423w
Great Western Railway Line, Overcrowding 312w
Local Enterprise Partnerships, Wiltshire 658w
Obesity, Health Services 137-8w
Parish Councils, Non-domestic Rates 703w

Topical Questions
3-4mc
17, 158, 432, 572, 684

Trade
Developing Countries 309w

Trade Promotion
477w
Nigeria 381w
Saudi Arabia 802w

Traffic Lights
Safety 406w

Train Punctuality
429

Training
802w

Translation Services
262w, 438w
Public Expenditure 395w

Transport
421, 7ws, 13ws, 42ws, 56w, 186w, 311w, 403w, 564w, 769w, 3-4mc
Capital Investment 580w
Infrastructure 778w

Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail)
213

Transport for London (Supplemental Toll Provisions) Bill [Lords] 2006-07 (Second Reading Order Read)
677
143

Travel
Concessions 778w
Costs 534w, 733w

Travellers' Sites
25w

Travellers (Unauthorised Encampments)
308

Treasury
1ws, 15ws, 27ws, 31ws, 92w, 181w, 338w, 427w, 638w, 704w

Tredinnick, David
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 662
Middle East and North Africa 300

Trickett, Jon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Capabilities Programme 332-3w, 352w, 479w, 502-3w, 787-8w
Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Finance 452w
Departmental Written Questions 277w
Domestic Horizon Scanning Committee 454w
Emergencies 454-5w
Freedom of Information Requests 11w, 13w, 19w, 36-8w, 80-1w, 85w, 94-5w, 116w, 146-7w, 158w, 173-5w, 182w, 192w, 194-5w, 202-3w, 239-40w, 257w, 259w, 297-8w, 319-20w, 331w, 370-1w, 543w, 566-7w, 696-7w, 785-6w
Lobbying 122w
Ministerial Policy Advisers 124w
Parliamentary Questions 161w, 314w, 403w, 424w, 427w, 635w, 734w
Resilience and Emergencies 350w
Resilience and Emergencies, Cabinet Committees 456w
Resilience and Emergencies, Training 456w
Security Vetting 20w, 43-4w, 61w, 82w, 117w, 148w, 166w, 222-3w, 276-7w, 285w, 524w, 573-4w, 711w, 748w
Written Questions 123-4w, 314-5w, 321-2w, 345w, 371w, 403w, 411w, 424-5w, 428w, 439w, 480-1w, 525w, 576w, 625w, 635w, 699w, 736w

Trident
236w

Triennial Review of NDPBs (HS2 Ltd)
13ws

Truss, Elizabeth
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 609, 611, 635, 662
Fuel Prices 799, 807
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Employment Tribunals, Reform 303w

Tuberculosis
143w

Turkey
Earthquakes 75w, 156w
EU Enlargement 651w

Turks and Caicos Islands
Prosecutions 651w

Turner, Karl
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 350, 362
Border Control Scheme 707
Education Bill 633, 660
Fuel Prices 774
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 378, 406

Turner, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Credit Institutions and Investment Firms 205
Localism Bill 132
Transport Committee Report (High Speed Rail) 214-5
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Grammar Schools 23wh, 38-9wh, 41wh

Twigg, Derek
Chamber Debates
Armed Forces Personnel 468, 530-3
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Business of the House 462
Education Bill 633, 660
G20 39
Localism Bill 130
UK Border Force 54
Youth Unemployment 390-2, 406
Questions
Adam Werritty 284w
Bus Services, Finance 311w
Cardiovascular System, Diseases 351w
Health Services, North-west England 355w
Hospitals, Food 135w
Malnutrition 355w
NHS Land 355w
NHS, Private Patients 356w
NHS, Private Sector 249-50w
NHS Property 356w
Regional Growth Fund 308w
Road Maintenance 431
St Helens and Whiston NHS Hospital Trust 253w

Twigg, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 612, 633, 647-52, 655, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406

Type 23 Frigates
751w

Tyrie, Mr Andrew
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
G20 29
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408

UK Border Agency
13, 44, 179w
Finance 179w, 763w
Manpower 179w, 422w
Stress 508w
Telephone Services 508w
Training 318w

UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy
25ws

UK Relations with Colombia
37ws

UK Sport
Sport England 90w

UK Trade & Investment
Local Economic Partnerships 382w

Umunna, Mr Chuka
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Departmental Regulations 332w

UN Convention
Watercourses 739w

Unemployment
275, 64w, 515w
Dudley 448w
Females 315w, 540w
Young People 119w

UNESCO
Finance 75w

Universal Credit
65w, 213w, 449w, 562w, 728w
Free School Meals 65w

Unpaid Taxes
645w

UNUM Ltd
450w

Uppal, Paul
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Organ Donation 97-100wh
Questions
Developing Countries, Taxation 431w
Revenue and Customs 429w
Students, Loans 113w
Taxation, Multinational Companies 430w

Urban Areas
Finance 25w

Vaizey, Mr Edward
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 662
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Art Works, England 492w
Arts 85w, 492-3w, 666-7w
Arts Council England 85w, 667-8w
Arts, Taxation 397w
Broadband 319w
Broadband, Wales 397w
Creative Industries Council 493-4w
Cultural Heritage 494w
Cultural Quarter 668w
Culture, Education 668-9w
English Heritage 495w
Freeview Service 495w
Freeview Services 86w
Internet Governance Forum, Security 495-6w
Michael Hintze 670w
Mobile Phones 86w
Mobile Phones, Aerials 641w
Mobile Telephone Coverage 322-3w
Museums and Galleries 86-7w
Museums and Galleries, Schools 496w
News International 496-7w
Ofcom 497w
Radio Frequencies 88-9w, 323-4w
Radio Licensing 89w
Sign Language 89-90w, 324w
Television, Licensing 193-4w
Theatres, Voluntary Work 671w

Vara, Mr Shailesh
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132
Youth Unemployment 408

VAT
15ws
Channel Islands 708w
Construction 185w
Hotels 185w
Imports 708w
Medical Treatments 100w
Metals 341w
Sports 430w
Tax Rates and Bands 708w

Vaz, Keith
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 321, 351-2, 362
Education Bill 633
G20 33

Vaz, Keith—continued
Independent Police Complaints Commission 814, 818
UK Border Force 51
Yemen 259-61, 263
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Asylum 170w
Change4Life 809w
Diabetes, Nurses 607w
Foreign Students 3
Knives, Crime 30w
Sport, Schools 620w
Young Offender Institutions 145

Vaz, Valerie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 451
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Apprentices 622w
Burma, Overseas Aid 144w
Corporate Boards (Female Representation) 441
NHS, Manpower 615w
Obesity 487w
Planning Permission 662w
Research 465w
Travel, Concessions 778w
Young People, Vocational Training 383w

Venture Capital
803w

Vickers, Martin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Fuel Prices 764-5
Localism Bill 108-10, 132
Youth Unemployment 408

Victim Support
146

Villiers, Rt Hon Mrs Theresa, *Minister of State, Department for Transport*
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 132-3
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 219wh, 222wh, 238-40wh
Bletchley-Oxford Rail Link 213-6wh
Questions
Air Travel Organisers' Licence 564-5w
Airlines, Standards 565w
Airports, Weather 56w
Aviation, Alcoholic Drinks 186w, 769w
Aviation, Baggage 565w
Aviation, EU Action 186w
Aviation, Security 56w, 186-7w, 311w
Aviation, USA 187w
East Coast Railway Line, Rolling Stock 312w
European Aviation Safety Authority 577w
Grayrigg Train Crash 432
Heathrow Airport 577w
Public Transport, Olympic Games 2012 774-5w
Railway Stations 426-7
Railways 189w
Railways, Electricity 58w
Railways, Fares 189w
Railways, Finance 189w
Railways, Franchises 579w, 775-6w
Railways, Freight 189-90w

Villiers, Rt Hon Mrs Theresa—continued
Railways, Kent 579-80w
Railways, Repairs and Maintenance 190w
Railways, Standards 313w
Road Traffic, Marble Arch 776w
Roads, Railways 580w
Rolling Stock, Manufacturing Industries 777w
Topical Questions 433-4

Visits Abroad
524w

Vitamin D
360w

Voluntary Organisations
Finance 704w

Voluntary Work
699w
Young People 121w, 768w

Voter Registration
1mc
282w, 763w

Wales
10w, 165w, 403w, 509w, 709w

Walker, Mr Charles
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Woodhaven Hospital 551
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Cannabis 51w
Cannabis, Mental Illness 600w
Fisheries 720-1
Mental Health 817w

Walker, Mr Robin
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 662
Fuel Prices 778-80
Localism Bill 133
Middle East and North Africa 303
Youth Unemployment 408

Wallace, Mr Ben
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
G20 40
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Duchy of Lancaster, Estate Agents 535w
Duchy of Lancaster, Farms 535-6w
Teachers, Pensions 291w

Walley, Joan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Localism Bill 122, 130
Questions
Lighting, Health Hazards 248w
NHS Reorganisation 137w

Walter, Mr Robert
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635

War Memorials
566
Vandalism 751w

Ward, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Cost of Motor Insurance 237-41
Education Bill 589, 635, 662
Green Investment Bank (Leeds) 669
Localism Bill 133

Ward, Mr David—continued
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Schools (Bradford) 55-8wh, 61wh
Questions
Primary Care Trusts 488w

Warm Front Scheme
St Helens 798w

Warm Home Discount Scheme
349w

Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle
567

Water Abstraction
398w

Water Pollution
227w

Watkinson, Angela
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408

Watson, Mr Tom
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Topical Questions 20
Visits Abroad 524w
Written Questions, Government Responses 529w

Watts, Mr Dave
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 342, 350, 362
Business of the House 460-1
Education Bill 633, 660
Fuel Prices 749-50, 765, 772, 777, 781
Hinchingbrooke Hospital 450
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Economic Growth, Liverpool 654w
Mayors, Liverpool 660w
Ministerial Policy Advisers, Manpower 673w
Regeneration, Liverpool 664w

Weatherley, Mike
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Westminster Hall
Organ Donation 98wh
Questions
Aviation, Alcoholic Drinks 769w
Combined Heat and Power, Social Rented Housing 263w
Cyber-Crime 418w
Cyber-crime, Convictions 424w
European Aviation Safety Authority 577w
Internet Governance Forum, Security 495w

Webb, Steve, Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Written Statements
Pension Protection System (Administration Levies) 10ws
Questions
Crisis Loans 435w, 554-6w, 714-9w

Webb, Steve—continued
Funeral Payments 441w, 722-5w
Housing Benefit 334-5w, 725w
Housing Benefit, Foster Care 335w
Housing Benefit, Rural Areas 725-6w
Pay, Pensions 210-1w
Pension Credit 556-7w, 726w
Pensions 446w, 557w, 726-7w
Pensions, Females 727w
Pensions, Teachers 63w
Personal Income 327-9w
Social Security Benefits 211w, 557-62w
State Retirement Pensions, Carers 211-2w
State Retirement Pensions, Overseas Residence 728w
State Retirement Pensions, Public Expenditure 212-3w
Universal Credit 214w, 728w
Winter Fuel Payments 214-5w, 563w

Weir, Mr Mike
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Company Liquidations 295w
Energy Prices 273
Farepak 303w
Insolvency 304-5w
Insolvency, Complaints 305w
Insolvency Service, Regulation 110w
Public Sector, Pay 95w, 104w

Welfare Reform Bill 2010-12
314w

Welfare Tax Credits
213w
Eligibility 185w

Well-being
541w

Welsh Grand Committee
Wrexham 181w

Werritty, Adam
15w, 26w, 36w, 68w, 76w, 84w, 101w, 157w, 165w, 194w, 220w, 227w, 236w, 263w, 284w, 318w, 383w, 410w, 431w, 433w, 518w, 694w, 709w, 729w, 740w

Wharfedale Hospital
1-2p

Wharton, James
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Planning Guidance (Northumberland) 249-50wh
Questions
Bovine Tuberculosis, Disease Control 221w

Wheeler, Heather
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 364-5
Education Bill 635, 662
Fuel Prices 755
Localism Bill 87, 133
Youth Unemployment 408

White, Chris
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
Youth Unemployment 408

Whiteford, Dr Eilidh
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Fuel Prices 745
Youth Unemployment 379

Whiteford, Dr Eilidh—continued
Questions
Carbon Capture and Storage 274-5
Charities 11w, 18w, 68w, 114w, 171w, 194w, 255w, 295w, 319w, 339w, 343w, 351w, 402w, 731w
Crisis Loans 435w, 554-5w, 714w, 717-9w
Departmental Billing 542w
Departmental Buildings 94w
Departmental Fines 566w
Departmental Training 454w
Fisheries 730-2
Funeral Payments 441w, 722w, 725w

Whitehead, Dr Alan
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406

Whittaker, Craig
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Cataracts, Older People 478w
Cataracts, Waiting Lists 478w
Defence, Procurement 743w

Whittingdale, Mr John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
General Practitioners, Essex 353w
General Practitioners, Finance 243w, 353-4w
Primary Care Trusts, Per Capita Costs 251w
Sark 552w
VAT, Channel Islands 708w

Wicks, Malcolm
Questions
Census, Guernsey 255w
Nuclear Power Stations, Construction 792w
Nuclear Power Stations, Hinkley Point 792w

Wiggin, Bill
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408

Willetts, Rt Hon Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Arts, Higher Education 459w
Biology, Graduates 622-3w
Chief Scientific Adviser 623w
Higher Education 108-9w
Higher Education, Admissions 110w, 627w
Higher Education, Ethnic Groups 627-8w
Higher Education, Finance 628w
Higher Education Funding Council 109w
Higher Education, Private Sector 628w
Higher Education, Teachers 466-9w
Innovation Strategy 107w
Nanotechnology 111w
Office for Life Sciences 629w
Research, Expenditure 379-80w, 630-1w
Science 380-1w
Science, Females 471-2w

Willetts, Rt Hon Mr David—continued
Science, Higher Education 472-6w
Science, Skilled Workers 476-7w
Student Loans Company 113w
Students, Finance 631-2w
Students, Loans 113w, 632w
Students, Sponsorship 632w

Williams, Hywel
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Middle East and North Africa 304
Youth Unemployment 406

Williams, Mr Mark
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133

Williams, Roger
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Cost of Motor Insurance 229-30, 246-7
Education Bill 635, 662
Fuel Prices 780
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408

Williams, Stephen
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
European Budgets 2014 to 2020 183, 190-1
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Topical Questions 689

Williamson, Chris
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 660
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Animal Experiments, Primates 167-8w
Nature Conservation, Crime 55w
Topical Questions 436

Williamson, Gavin
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Business of the House 464
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Departmental Mobile Phones 697w
Prison Population 149

Willott, Jenny
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408

Wilson, Mr Rob
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Border Control Scheme 703
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
M5 Motorway Accident 73
UK Border Force 55
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Aviation Industry 232-4wh
Grammar Schools 26-9wh, 37wh, 40wh
Questions
Train Punctuality 430

Wilson, Phil
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Border Control Scheme 706
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406

Wilson, Sammy
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Cost of Motor Insurance 238, 240, 243, 245
Fuel Prices 768, 790-2
Youth Unemployment 406

Wind Power
338w, 596w
Planning Permission 597w

Winnick, Mr David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 315, 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Middle East and North Africa 300
Youth Unemployment 372, 400, 406
Questions
Members, Correspondence 54w
Offenders, Rehabilitation 33w
Private Sector, Pay 99w
Queen's Messages 68w
Reoffenders 34w

Winter Fuel Payments
214w, 563w

Winter Resilience
427

Winterton, Rt Hon Ms Rosie
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 404, 406

Wishart, Pete
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 323, 362
UK Border Force 53
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Asylum 502w
Departmental Manpower 753-5w
Deportation 756-7w
Deportation, Complaints 758w
Immigration 760w
Immigration Controls 506w
UK Border Agency, Stress 508w

Witten Ministerial Statement (Correction)
20ws

Wollaston, Dr Sarah
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Cost of Motor Insurance 233
Education Bill 635, 662
Fuel Prices 782-3
G20 42
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Westminster Hall
Obesity 110-1wh, 118wh

Women and Equalities
437, 310w, 400w

Women Offenders
442

Woodcock, John
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Cost of Motor Insurance 247-9, 253
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130

Woodcock, John—continued
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Magistrates Courts, Rural Areas 33w
MOT Tests 425
Roads, Snow and Ice 580w

Woodhaven Hospital
549

Woodward, Rt Hon Mr Shaun
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
Energy, Mobile Homes 788w
Fuel Poverty 790w
Warm Front Scheme, St Helens 798w

Work and Pensions
10ws, 30ws, 60w, 198w, 324w, 433w, 553w, 714w

Work Capability Assessment
66w, 450w, 563w

Work Programme
67w, 215w, 450w, 564w

Working Tax Credit
645w
Older Workers 101w

World War I
Anniversaries 84w

Wright, David
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 406
Questions
War Memorials 567

Wright, Jeremy
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133

Wright, Jeremy—continued
Youth Unemployment 408

Wright, Mr Iain
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 362
Education Bill 633, 660
Localism Bill 130
Youth Unemployment 393-4, 406
Questions
Data Protection 104w
Departmental Data Protection 623w
Departmental Secondment 625w
Executive Pay 112w
Individual Savings Accounts, Stocks and Shares 98w
Industry, Production 640w
Lord Young of Graffham 123-4w
Regional Growth Fund 802w
Research, Expenditure 379w, 630w
Secondment 301w
Solar Power 590w
Students, Transport 685w
UK Trade & Investment, Local Economic Partnerships 382w
Written Questions 107w

Wright, Simon
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Dangerous Dogs 733w
Freedom of Information 145-6

Written Questions
107w, 123w, 314w, 321w, 345w, 366w, 371w, 403w, 411w, 424w, 428w, 440w, 480w, 501w, 525w, 576w, 625w, 635w, 699w, 734w, 736w
Government Responses 529w

Yemen
259
637w, 653w
Politics and Government 164w

Yeo, Mr Tim
Chamber Debates
Education Bill 635, 662
Localism Bill 133
Questions
Renewable Energy, Feed-in Tariffs 589w
Solar Power, Feed-in Tariffs 592w

Young of Graffham, Lord
123w

Young Offender Institutions
145

Young Offenders
15w, 396w
Drugs and Alcohol 254w
Wales 55w

Young People
Vocational Training 383w

Young, Rt Hon Sir George, Leader of the House of Commons
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
Business of the House 452, 454-66
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
Bell Pottinger Group 498w
Duchy of Cornwall 498w
Legislation, Parliamentary Scrutiny 498w
Private Members' Bills 499w
Queen's Messages 68w

Youth Parliament
713w

Youth Unemployment
366

Zahawi, Nadhim
Chamber Debates
Border Checks Summer 2011 365
G20 36
Localism Bill 133
Youth Unemployment 408
Questions
High Speed 2 Railway Line 577w